

Hafa Adai!

Finance: FEMA reimbursed \$206.34M for disaster programs. PAGE 2

Krum discusses Al-Alon with Rotary. PAGE 3

**\$1**

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 188

**WEDNESDAY** SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

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**United Airlines Saipan receives accolades for excellent safety protocols**

**KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**

United Airlines and POI Aviation staff are recognized for their achievements in safety through a Safety Excellence Achievement ceremony held yesterday at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

**By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

United Airlines reps journeyed to Saipan to personally recognize United Airlines sector Saipan and POI Aviation for its excellence  
**See UNITED on Page 4**

# Staffler admits including taxes provisions in budget bill a first

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**R**ep. Leila Haveia Fleming C. Staffler (D-Saipan) acknowledged Friday that incorporating taxes provisions in a budget bill has not been done before in the CNMI, but that it does not mean it's unconstitutional or illegal.

» **But says it's not unconstitutional**

At a press conference in the House of Representatives chamber, Staffler said it is very clear in the Planning,

Budgeting and Auditing Act that the House can appropriate money, including taxation, if  
**See STAFFLER on Page 4**



Staffler

## THIS NOV. 8 GENERAL ELECTIONS

**Portable voting booths with plexiglass-like material will be used**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission will eventually throw away all the voting booths that are made up of plywood as CEC will be using small portable voting booths made up of plexiglass-like material for this Nov. 8 general elections.

CEC administrative officer Robin N. Sablan disclosed Monday that the portable voting booths, that many states have been using during elections, are more easy to set up and retrieve.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Commonwealth Election Commission administrative officer Robin N. Sablan demonstrates Monday using a sample on how to set up a portable voting booth made up of plexiglass-like material at the polling sites for the Nov. 8 general elections. CEC will use the portable voting booths on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and eventually throw away the old voting booths that are made up of plywood.

"Just set it up on the table instead of carrying the booth itself," said Sablan as he demonstrated how the new booth works.

He said before they were using the plywood booths, which were very hard to distribute during elections as they were not only heavy but big too.

The administrative officer said in every polling place, they put up like eight to 10 booths.

Sablan said storing those wooden booths is hard as they don't have big storage rooms.

Sablan said this new con-  
**See PORTABLE on Page 4**

## PSS: External audit findings addressed

The Public School System said yesterday that it has already adequately responded to and initiated corrective actions on the recent independent external audit commissioned by the school district.

Ernst & Young (CNMI), Inc. conducted the audit and completed the report on

Aug. 17, 2022.

Most of the findings are administrative in nature and have already been addressed and completed. There are remaining findings/recommendations that PSS said will be addressed by Sept. 30, 2022—end of the current

**See PSS on Page 4**

## INSIDE



### LOCAL

CNMI Bar member William M. Fitzgerald passed away last Sept. 17.

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### NATION

Adnan Syed was released after a judge overturned Syed's conviction for the 1999 murder of high school student Hae Min Lee.

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### LIFE & STYLE

The United Kingdom and the world bade farewell to Queen Elizabeth II on Monday with a state funeral that drew presidents and kings, princes and prime ministers.

**PAGE 15**



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## Local

## Finance: FEMA reimbursed \$206.34M for disaster programs

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

As of Sept. 9, 2022, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has reimbursed the CNMI a total of \$206.34

million for disaster programs, including for COVID-19 response, according to the Department of Finance.

Finance's report shows that for Super Typhoon Soudelor programs, FEMA reimbursed \$32,082,153 for expenses incurred due to emergency debris removal, emergency protective measures, permanent roads and bridges, permanent buildings and equipment, utilities, management costs, and permanent parks, recreational facilities, and other items.

The bulk of expenses for Soudelor programs was for utilities, which amounted to \$21,749,092.

Finance's report was among the many documents that Finance Secretary David

DLG Atalig submitted last Sept. 12 to House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota).

Manglona issued a subpoena to compel Finance to provide numerous reports or documents that the committee members have sought.

The Finance report shows that for Typhoon Mangkhut programs, FEMA reimbursed \$999,764 for emergency debris removal, emergency protective measures, permanent buildings and equipment, management costs, and permanent parks, recreational facilities, and other items.

The bulk of expenses for Mangkhut programs was for buildings and equip-

ment, which amounted to \$195,549.

For Super Typhoon Yutu programs, FEMA reimbursed \$137,975,488 for emergency debris removal, emergency protective measures, permanent roads and bridges, utilities, management costs, and permanent parks, recreational facilities, and other items.

The biggest expenses were for utilities in the amount of \$75,708,072.

Super Typhoon Soudelor hit Saipan in August 2015. Typhoon Mangkhut made landfall on Rota on Sept. 10, 2019, while Super Typhoon Yutu devastated Saipan and Tinian on Oct. 24 and 25, 2018.

For COVID-19 programs, FEMA reimbursed \$35,289,721 for emergency protective measures and management costs.

Emergency protective measures cost \$34,415,598.



Atalig

## \$10k bail set for man accused of assaulting ex-GF

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a \$10,000 cash bail on a man accused of assaulting his former girlfriend and tampering with her car all for a cellphone.

Last Monday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed a \$10,000 cash bail on Franco Estevan Castro Igisaiar for allegedly assaulting his ex-girlfriend and damaging her car last

Saturday because she had his cellphone.

Igisaiar, 23, is currently facing charges of assault, assault and battery, tampering with a vehicle, and disturbing the peace.

Following the bail hearing last Monday, Igisaiar was remanded back to Department of Corrections custody and was ordered to return to court on Sept. 28, at 10am for a preliminary hearing. Meanwhile his arraignment was set for Oct. 3, at 9 am before Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja.

During the hearing, assistant public defender Vina Seelam was appointed to represent Igisaiar while assistant attorney general Frances Demapan appeared for the government.

According to court documents, the victim in this case told police that she shares two children with Igisaiar and although they have been separated for the last three months, they kept in touch up until the night of the incident.

On the night of the incident, the victim said Igisaiar had informed her that he would be going out to play darts at a bar before heading home. However, when he hadn't answered her calls, the victim said she started to worry.

Later, the woman said someone from a bar answered Igisaiar's cellphone stating that Igisaiar had left his phone behind leading her to take her 9-month-old child, drive to the bar, and pick up Igisaiar's cellphone at around 4am.

However, as she was about to drive off from the bar, Igisaiar flagged her vehicle, prompting her to turn around.

When she pulled up near Igisaiar, the victim rolled down her passenger window and told him to get in the car so she could drop him home but he allegedly refused.

She said Igisaiar started "getting mad" and telling her that he would "hit her head" with a beer bottle if she didn't give him back his phone.

The victim added that Igisaiar was also banging a yellow Yeti can cooler against the passenger side window before throwing it at her, which allegedly left a bump on the right side of her head.


According to the police, the victim provided video footage of Igisaiar throwing the can cooler at her.

She said Igisaiar then told her to give him his phone back and threatened her with a beer bottle again.


The victim said Igisaiar eventually got inside the passenger side of the vehicle and started shouting, kicking, and punching the interior of the vehicle.

She added that Igisaiar was shouting at her and telling her to leave while kicking her car dashboard, windshield, air-conditioning vents, gear shifter, and touch screen for the radio panel, damaging them.

She said Igisaiar also ripped off the rear-view mirror and used his left hand to try and slap her face, but she blocked it with her right hand before he exited the vehicle.



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
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Division of Coastal Resources Management  
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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF CRM PUBLIC HEARING**  
**ATKINS KROLL (SAIPAN), INC.**  
**AK TOYOTA LEXUS SAIPAN DEALERSHIP FACILITY**

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the following project:

**CRM Major Siting Application No. SMS-2022-056** – Atkins Kroll Saipan, Inc. is proposing to construct its new headquarters building and a Toyota-Lexus Dealership facility in Puerto Rico, Saipan. The project is situated on Lot No. E.A. 896-R2, measuring a total area of about 15,000 square meters, more or less, which borders with Route 30, Chalan Pale Arnold to the northwest, the U.S. Army Reserve complex, a vacant parcel to the northeast, the ANAKS Ocean View Condominiums to the east, and the Marianas Heights commercial buildings on the south side of the property. The project includes auto dealership area and parking, auto parts and services, sales offices, storage and working areas, conference rooms, vehicle showrooms, lounge areas, breakrooms, and restrooms. A large customer parking area will be provided with ADA compliant parking stalls, drive pathways, retaining walls, site illumination and site security networks, pedestrian pathways, and vegetative decors.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled on **Wednesday, October 05, 2022, at 5:00PM, at the DCRM Learning Center 3rd Floor, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.**

To maintain the health and safety of all, virtual public participation is highly encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/6706648315>. Our Zoom meeting access code may change, please call the DCRM Permitting Office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance at least one-day prior to the public hearing date.

If you are unable to attend, written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Permitting Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315, or by email at [ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp). The project file is open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project. Please contact Ms. Sam Sablan at the DCRM Permitting Office at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the AK Toyota Saipan Dealership Facility Project.

/s/ Richard V. Salas  
Director  
Division of Coastal Resources Management

**Application Deadline:**  
**December 9,**  
**2022**



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*Paid for by official funds authorized by the House of Representatives.*



# Krum discusses Al-Alon with Rotary



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Members of the Rotary Club of Saipan pose with guest speakers Dr. Donna Krum, third from left, and Capt. Michael Bacher, fourth from left, following their presentations yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

With September and yesterday, Sept. 20, proclaimed as National Recovery Month and National Addiction Professional Day, respectively, one of Rotary Club of Saipan's guest speakers addressed the importance of an individual's physical and mental well-being when in association with someone struggling with Substance Abuse Disorder.

Dr. Donna Krum, also a Rotarian, and has been a public servant in the CNMI alongside her husband for years, was one of the two presenters yesterday for the Rotary Club's luncheon at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Krum briefly addressed the Rotary concerning the significance of the Al-Alon program, a program similar to the widely AAA program, but is designed to help the family and friends of individuals who struggle with addiction.

"Recovery is for everyone, for the person who has the disorder, obviously, but it is [also] for the community, getting families back together, cause that's one of the biggest struggles that we have is that they've [the individual in recovery] lost their family connection, so they're in recovery and doing great, but they don't have their family, especially

here where family is everything, that's not true recovery."

Krum explained the importance of the support of family and friends especially when it came to helping a loved one overcome addiction.

"Some research shows that when a problem drinker is someone with a substance abuse disorder, any kind of addiction, their chances of success are improved, when they are supported by family members..."

She noted that in order for an individual to give the proper support and help to their loved one suffering with the disorder, that they too must be helped and taken care of.

Krum went on to explain that she too had been a member of the Al-Alon group for some 27 years, and had suffered the loss of a family member due to drug overdose. Krum gave a more in-depth view of how each activity in the program can help people, and has helped her get through.

"The reason I can stand up today is because of those rooms." She's since been functioning as an Al-Alon member and advocate since, and is now seeking to grow and expand the support group on the CNMI, where she hopes to open up a center, solely based on helping other individuals in the same situation. The center will be in honor of her daughter, whom she lost.

"Substance abuse disorder

is a disease, it's not just a lack of character; it is respect for no one. What this island needs to combat is for people to stand up straight and tell their story, because the truth will always set you free."

Al-Alon members are peers that are worried about someone with a disorder, and the group in the CNMI meets weekly each Saturday morning at the Community Guidance Center from 10:15am to 11:15am. The Al-Alon in the CNMI is part of the Blue Ribbon Initiative program.

Krum's presentation had

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followed a presentation by Capt. Michael W. Bacher, director of the Western Pacific Maritime Academy.

Bacher discussed the new, but fully established Western Pacific Maritime Academy, now located at Northern Marianas Technical Institute. Bacher

mentioned that their agency has been approved by the Public School System as a four-year maritime vocational track program, in which the intent is to graduate young individuals from high school to then work directly on ships as entry level seamen or to hire. Bacher noted

the success of their very first course, held last Saturday. The individuals involved will learn the skill of offering service to big ships and vessels not only limited to the CNMI, but around the world. Each of these courses given are U.S Coast Guard-approved maritime courses.



## UNITED STATES Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



### NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on September 30, 2022 at 10:30am to 1:00pm at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Caladium room.

### AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of September 30, 2022
- IV. Action Items
  - A. Election of Officers
    1. Secretary
    2. Vice Chairperson
    3. Chairperson
- V. New Business
  - A. 2022 NDEAM update
  - B. NMC Gubernatorial Debate
  - C. Preview of COVID-19 Booster Shot Videos
- VI. Miscellaneous
- VII. Next Meeting
- VIII. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Robert Mendiola  
Chairperson

*This ad is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award total \$274,744 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.*



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**JUAN TUDELA  
LIZAMA**  
**FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL**

*Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilisow,  
Salamat po, and Thank You.*

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**ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND POLLUTION:** As the People's AG, I will be the "people's" consumer protection watchdog. I will not tolerate substituting hard work with callous business practices and taking dangerous shortcuts to making profits by price gouging, violating worker protection laws, etc. Additionally, we cannot be healthy and happy people if our communities are polluted or suffering from environmental degradation. Therefore, I am committed to ensuring that our islands are kept clean...whether by cutting bureaucratic red tape or vigorously prosecuting illegal dumping, we shall stop those who thoughtlessly destroy our environment. I will work with the Legislature and with the Executive Branch to close statutory loopholes that harm our people and our environment and when we can identify new opportunities to increase the protection of our citizens for their lasting safety and security across all of our communities. **JTL**



## AS FUEL PRICES IN CNMI CONTINUE TO DROP

## Gas nears \$4 mark

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
Kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI continues to see a downward trend in fuel prices with gas nearing the \$4 mark.

Fuel on Saipan is currently at the lowest it's been all year thanks to local oil companies dropping its prices by another 15 cents.

As of yesterday, Mobil Oil Marianas dropped its fuel prices by 15 cents with a gallon of its Extra fuel now at \$5.26 per gallon from \$5.41. Mobil also reduced its Supreme fuel from \$5.86 per gallon to \$5.71 per gallon, while Diesel dropped by 20 cents from \$6.68 per gallon to \$6.48.

Shell Marianas is expected to drop its fuel prices today.

The CNMI has seen a consistent downward trend in fuel prices for the last three months.

Starting in the first week of July, the CNMI saw a series of rollbacks with fuel dropping from \$6.56 per gallon of regular fuel from the beginning of the month, to now at \$5.26.

The first rollback was seen on July 4, with local oil companies reducing their prices by 15 cents from \$6.56 to \$6.41.

A longer version of this story is available at  
[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

As of yesterday, Mobil Oil Marianas dropped its fuel prices by 15 cents with a gallon of its Extra fuel now at \$5.26 per gallon from \$5.41. Mobil also reduced its Supreme fuel from \$5.86 per gallon to \$5.71 per gallon while Diesel dropped by 20 cents from \$6.68 per gallon to \$6.48.

## PORTABLE

From Page 1

cept will save the government money as they keep on changing the wooden booths because of termites and other damage.

He said at every polling site there are tables already.

Sablan said the instructions on how to vote are embedded in the portable voting booth.

He said the material they are using is plexiglass-like but not see-through so the voters have privacy.

"Lot of states are using this. To set

up and retrieve is so easy especially during elections," Sablan said, adding that they will use the portable voting booths in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

He said their future goal is that they want poll workers to be more independent, because what they do during elections is manage the polling sites.

"So when we give them the materials we want to put everything in. So when they go there they just set up everything," he said.

Sablan said right now, they are the ones doing logistics during elections and also have to be present during the tabulations all the way until the

results are certified.

He said to set up, they have to start a day before the election day, coordinating with schools' opening and closure.

With respect to technicians from Nebraska-based Election Systems & Software, Sablan said there's no date yet as to when they are coming to Saipan.

"But every election, we have them three days prior to election just to make sure machines are calibrated, they're running good. They're there to insert the chip to identify the sub precincts, make sure it's running," he said.

## STAFFLER

From Page 1

it's part of the budget.

Staffler said one only has to read Title 1 CMC 7204 (b) number one of the Planning, Budgeting and Auditing Act to show that annual budget appropriations acts shall not appropriate funds in excess of the total Commonwealth financial resources established by the House concurrent resolution unless the legislature approves additional taxation.

She pointed out that the House unanimously voted to approve additional taxation for this budget bill.

During a KKMP press briefing last Sept. 9, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Gilbert Birnrich, who is the legal counsel for the Office of the Governor, both stated that including tax legislation in the House of Representatives' version of the budget bill for the government's operations for Fiscal Year 2023, is unconstitutional.

Torres said he asked the Legislature to create revenue-generating bills and an incentive for new money to come in, but that he never asked to go and increase taxes.

Birnrich said regarding the tobacco tax and sugar sweetened beverages tax that the House included in the budget, they were a little surprised that they put that in there because that is unconstitutional.

"The constitution is pretty clear. We believe that the appropriation budgets are only meant to be for appropriations. You're not supposed to put in anything substantive like amendments to laws, creating a whole new set of laws," Birnrich said.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) disclosed in discussing the budget bill during a session when they passed the legislation, that the committee had decided to add two provisions that would increase taxes just for the fiscal year 2023 to address the funding shortfall for healthcare particularly the medical referral.

Manglona, who is the author of the budget bill, said the committee proposed to increase taxes on tobacco and sugar sweetened beverages for the fiscal year.

In addressing Torres and Birnrich's allegations, Staffler said Friday that attached in the administration's proposed budget for fiscal year 2023 that was submitted to the Legislature last April 1, was a letter to governor's own Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig addressed to Nadine Benjamin, the acting special assistant to the Management and Budget Office.

Staffler said Atalig refers to the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers 2021 annual report that includes information from the Fiscal Response Summit of 2020 that recommended this very solution as a revenue generating measure to raise taxes on sugar sweetened beverages tax and tobacco tax.

She said Atalig noted that this would raise an estimated \$6.3 million in local funds that they allocated directly to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to support the growing programs and needs.

Staffler said although in the governor's graphic it shows the House took money away from CHCC, what they actually did was give them a bigger amount.

"And we took their local funds so that we can fund the other parts that I talked about earlier.... retirees benefits and Medicaid match," she said.

Staffler said that what Torres and Birnrich were saying that this is illegal is wrong.

"It's never been done before. Incorporating taxation legislation in a budget has not been done in the CNMI. But it doesn't mean that it cannot be done. Our code allows for it. And it's part of a code that's been there ever since," she said.

Staffler said it is part of their role as policymakers who have authority as the fiduciary duty to initiate those revenue generating bills.

Staffler is running for lieutenant governor in the Nov. 8 general elections under the Democratic Party, with Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) as her running mate as governor.

Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) said at the same press briefing that she wanted to make it clear that part of what Birnrich stated is true that they cannot introduce multiple subject bills.

Babauta said however, the annual appropriations bill is considered an omnibus bill so it has multiple subjects in it so they included provisions raising taxes.

She said as chair Manglona alluded to, the tobacco, and sugar sweetened beverages taxes have sunset provision that it will end at the next fiscal year, or Sept. of 2023.

"It was a test to see if we could and maybe future legislators could make it a permanent statute. But we decided to just add a sunset provision and only put it into effect for one year," Babauta said.

## PSS

From Page 1

fiscal year, the Office of the Commissioner of Education said in a release yesterday.

"The independent audit report was for the fiscal year ending 2020. It was a re-audit that we have requested. For most part the findings are administrative in nature and they have been addressed and are reflected in the same report that was released by the auditors," the Office of the Commissioner of Education said.

As part of PSS transparency and accountability reporting, it has provided the audit report to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse for all of its grantors.

The Office of the Public Auditor released it to the public on Monday afternoon. The Executive Branch and both chambers of the Legislature were provided with the independent audit report.

"These findings were for Fiscal Year 2020 that have already been resolved but the report was just re-

leased lately," PSS said.

## Responses to findings

The external auditor found two areas: 1) financial statement, and 2) federal awards findings and questioned cost.

Under the financial statement, EY said in its recommendation that "management (PSS) should consider improving processes to ensure transactions, including non-cash transactions, are recorded in the proper accounting period."

PSS said it "Agree(s) with the finding. The Finance department's lack of adequate staffing and management personnel contributed to the findings. Finance director and comptroller position was filled and have implemented a financial statement close process including cutoff procedures, account reconciliations and in-depth review of transactions related to payroll, purchases and federal award income and cash receipts."

A longer version of this story is available at  
[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## UNITED

From Page 1

in carrying out United's intensive list of safety requirements.

Yesterday, United Airlines representatives held a Safety Excellence Achievement ceremony at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport to celebrate United Airlines Saipan and POI Aviation's accomplishments in ensuring that each flight aboard United Airlines is a safe one.

United Airlines and POI Saipan were awarded the silver and gold achievement awards for their hard work.

Sam Shinohara, managing director of Airport Operations for Asia Pacific at United Airlines, said United Airlines celebrates safety and throughout the pandemic, the Saipan sector has done an exceptional job of maintaining United's standards.

"Today we're here to celebrate Safety Excellence achievement for the Saipan station. In United Airlines, we celebrate safety. There is a rigorous process to achieve Safety Excellence at United Airlines and we are awarding Saipan both the silver award as well as the gold award, because they achieved two awards during the pandemic. We weren't able to come and celebrate the silver, but they still continued on the path toward gold. They were able to achieve that two months ago," he said.

Shinohara explained that it is no easy feat to achieve these accolades.

"There's a bunch of audits. First thing is there's a curriculum that they have to follow. That's ensuring that every touchpoint with respect to the customer is done on a safe basis, and all of the safety protocols that we have in place, are consistently followed. So that's number one, whether that is upstairs at the check-in counter, or at the gates, or on the ramp below the wing, where we're loading the freight and cargo onto the airplane, they should be

following those processes," he said.

"Including simple things like making sure everybody's always wearing their seatbelts, everybody is doing a safety briefing before we have meetings, ensuring that fire extinguishers are working, ensuring that the airport has a good safety program, that facility items, whether they're trip hazards, or safety risk issues with electrical outlets, making sure those are addressed on a timely basis. There's a 100-point checklist that everybody has to go through and the team has done a great job doing that," he added.

Despite the extensive checklist, POI and United Saipan were able to accomplish such an achievement.

"It's a great achievement. I'm really proud of the team. Dave Baker and the POI team, I'm really proud of them, because it takes a lot of hard work. COVID has certainly made life much more challenging with all of the extra protocols we had to put in place. So you layer the COVID protocols on top of our existing safety protocols and you're in a world of extra work. And so for that, I'm super proud of the team. I think it's a great achievement, especially during this time," he said.

Meanwhile, POI Aviation president and CEO Jerry Tan said if not for the hard work of everyone employed with POI Saipan, this achievement would not have been possible.

"It's really important for any passenger to feel safe when you are flying. For POI to be recognized for achieving Safety Excellence, this is one of the reasons why POI has been highly successful as one of our strategic business units within Tan Holdings. Without you guys, we would not be able to achieve so many awards," he said.

"They make me look good when actually, I really don't do much. They're the ones who actually work hard every day at operations. As a frequent traveler, I do actually go in and out of the airport and see all of them in action and I am really, really proud of the POI team," he said.



# 0 hospitalizations, 10 new COVID-19 cases

The Commonwealth Health-care Corp. said there were zero individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19 as of Sept. 19, 2022.

From Sept. 11-17, CHCC also reported that 10 additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI total to 13,166 cases. A case was identified prior to Sept. 11, 2022. Of the 10 cases recently identified:

- 1 on Sept. 11, 2022
- 1 on Sept. 12, 2022
- 2 on Sept. 13, 2022
- 1 on Sept. 14, 2022
- 2 on Sept. 15, 2022
- 2 on Sept. 16, 2022
- 1 on Sept. 17, 2022

The CNMI is currently in COVID-19 Community Level Low. Guidelines for residents of the CNMI to consider while we are in COVID-19 Community Level Low:

■ Stay up to date on vaccination, including recommended booster doses.

■ Maintain ventilation improvements.

■ Avoid contact with people who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

■ Follow recommendations for isolation if you have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

■ Follow the recommendations for what to do if you are exposed to someone with COVID-19.

■ If you are at high risk of getting very sick, talk with a healthcare provider about additional prevention actions.

■ If you test positive for COVID-19, you should stay home for at least 5 days and isolate from others in your home as much as possible; wear a high-quality mask if you must be around others at home and in public; should not go places where you are unable to wear a mask; should not travel; take steps to improve ventilation at home, if possible; should not share personal household items, like cups, towels, and utensils; and should monitor

your symptoms.

■ If you have an emergency warning sign (like trouble breathing), seek emergency medical care immediately.

■ If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, you should get tested for COVID-19. You should isolate yourself if you are sick and suspect that you have COVID-19 but do not yet have test results. If your results are positive, follow the full, updated isolation recommendations at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html).

The CHCC continues to encourage the community to get vaccinated if they have not done so, or get their updated booster shot if they are eligible to help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, or death. People considered high risk (e.g., history of diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, or cancer, or over the age of 65), immunocompromised persons, or unvaccinated individuals are at risk of serious illness from COVID-19. Unvaccinated individuals spread the virus at a higher rate than vaccinated individuals, thereby increasing the spread and risk of serious illness toward other unvaccinated individuals.

As of Sept. 16, 2022, a total of 24,787 COVID-19 additional/booster vaccine shots have been administered, which equals to 55% of the eligible population; 211 updated COVID-19 booster vaccines have been administered, which equals to 0.5% of the eligible population.

A total of 154 COVID-19 tests were conducted Sept. 11-17, 2022:

- 6 on Sept. 11, 2022
- 20 on Sept. 12, 2022
- 16 on Sept. 13, 2022
- 35 on Sept. 14, 2022
- 22 on Sept. 15, 2022
- 37 on Sept. 16, 2022
- 18 on Sept. 17, 2022

Free COVID-19 testing is available by register-

ing at <https://covidtesting.chcc.health>.

While you wait to get tested or for your test results, stay at home as much as possible and limit your contact with others. Live COVID-19 safe: wear your mask based on your personal level of risk; wash your hands; watch your distance; avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces; cover coughs and sneezes; clean and disinfect high touch surfaces daily; be alert for symptoms daily; and get tested for COVID-19.

Of the total cases identified, as of Sept. 17, 2022:

- 13,117 recoveries
- 9 active cases
- 40 COVID-19-related deaths
- Identified via:
- 11,990 community testing
- 1,176 travel testing

The next public report will be around Sept. 26, 2022.

Additionally, CHCC said it will pause weekly public reporting of COVID-19 cases after Sept. 26, 2022, but will update the residents of the CNMI should significant developments occur. COVID-19 services will continue.

Stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccination! For more information on how to get COVID-19 primary series or updated booster shots, call (670) 236-8745.

Residents of the CNMI who test positive for COVID-19 may be eligible for treatment by calling (670) 234-8950, ext. 5068, or reporting their positive test result online at [www.staysafecnmi.com/self-reporting](http://www.staysafecnmi.com/self-reporting) as soon as possible after testing positive. Residents requesting COVID-19 treatment should fill out the medical questionnaire in the form to get assessed as soon as possible. Reporting a positive test result online also allows residents to obtain a certificate of quarantine completion, which employers/individuals may use as documentation of a positive test result. **(PR)**

# William M. Fitzgerald passes away

CNMI Bar member William M. Fitzgerald passed away last Sept. 17 and the Northern Mariana Islands Judiciary extends condolences to Fitzgerald's bereaved family and friends.

"It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of esteemed attorney and CNMI Bar member William M. Fitzgerald. On behalf of the Northern Mariana Islands Judiciary, we express our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and the CNMI community he called home,"

it said in a statement.

Fitzgerald exemplified the tenets of professionalism and dedication to the practice of law in the CNMI.

After his military service in the U.S. Air Force, he attended law school at Temple University and found his way to Saipan in the 1970s during the

Trust Territory era. His zealous advocacy for his clients and participation in the CNMI Bar spanned decades, both in civil and

criminal matters.

In recognition of his service to the CNMI legal profession, Fitzgerald was chosen by U.S. Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona for the inaugural Alex Robert Munson Award for Professionalism.

"He inspires all of us for the life and impact he made on our community. Once again, our sympathies go out to all those affected by his passing. His presence in the courtroom will be dearly missed," statement from the Northern Mariana Islands Judiciary read. **(PR)**



Fitzgerald



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS**  
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: [www.dpl.gov.mp](http://www.dpl.gov.mp) • Email: [dpl@dpl.gov.mp](mailto:dpl@dpl.gov.mp)

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 117 D 03, containing an area of approximately 4,892 square meters, situated in Puerto Rico, Saipan. A map showing the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website [www.dpl.gov.mp](http://www.dpl.gov.mp) for inspection.
  - The prospective lessee is Coldwell Energy 1 LLC. The list of officers for Coldwell Energy 1 LLC is David Hood, as Manager.
  - The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by the officer and director of Coldwell Energy 1 LLC, mainly David Hood.
  - The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of a business warehouse and storage facility.
- The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years.
- The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.
- A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the PM Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at [www.dpl.gov.mp](http://www.dpl.gov.mp)
  - The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Puerto Rico, Saipan.
  - The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before October 3, 2022, at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota, or Tinian.

## NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TÂNU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbluku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku mannâna'i huyung nutisia guini put i intension-niha para u ma'atila metton na tanu' pupbluku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariânas. Maseha hayi na pattida intrisao gi halum hinirat pupbluku siha muna halum upiñon, infotmasion, pat testimoniu kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbluku. Komu mapribeni mas mo'na ginin i Lain Pupbluku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesi na infotmasion manisista para u mapublika.

- I mapropni na atkilon tanu' pupbluku madiskribi komu Lot 117 D 03 ni kunsissisti kâsi 4,892 square meters, ni gaigi gi halum Puerto Rico, iya Saipan. I mapa ni ina'a'annuk i lugât managuaha gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku yan gi website i [www.dpl.gov.mp](http://www.dpl.gov.mp) para inspeksion.
  - I prospective lessee i Coldwell Energy 1 LLC. I listan nu ufisiât siha para i Coldwell Energy 1 LLC sa si David Hood, komu i Manager.
  - I mapropni na atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha yan ginen manegosiu ni ufisiât yan direktot nu Coldwell Energy 1 LLC, mayotmenti as David Hood.
  - I lessee debi na u usa i lugât put atyu ha' na rason nu i pine'lun fektus/matinât bisnis yan fasilidât pine'lu.
- I tema nu i mapropni na kontratan atkilon sa' bentisingku (25) ânus na tiempu.
- I mapropni na atkilon gi kada' sâkkan gi durântin teman kontratan i atkilon mapega gi put sientus i bâlin "appraised fair market" i propiedât yan i aplikâo na put sientus nu i "Business Gross Receipts" gi halum i regulasion DPL.
- I kopian nu i mapropni na kuntratan atkilon siha machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku, ni gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) na bibiendan i PM Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia debi lokku' na u managuaha online gi [www.dpl.gov.mp](http://www.dpl.gov.mp)
  - I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku tâya marisibi ni hâfa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atila i suhetu na tanu' pupbluku gi Puerto Rico, giya Saipan.
  - I Sekretariu Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku debi na u akseptâ tinigi' upiñon, infotmasion, testimoniu kinontra pat tinahguin prinoponi siha ginin i manintiriso na pattida siha gi pat ântis di Oktubri 3, 2022, gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku siha ni gaigi giya Sa'ipan, Luta pat Tini'an.

## ARONGORONGOL TOULAP REEL POMMWOL ATKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tâilil 106 (b) reel Allégihúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap e attotoowow arongorong reel igha re mângemángil rebwe atkilaay akkáaw faluweer toulap Ilól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng Ilól Marianas. Schóó kka re mwuschel isisilong kkapas, data, views, ngäre angingi reel pommwol atkilóónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sáangi Allégihúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritw ebwe akkatéewow.

- Ppwmwol atkilóónol faluweer toulap e bwáálo bwe Lot 117 D 03, e lo bwe 4,892 reel square meters, iye e lo Puerto Rico, Seipél. E bwáálo wóol móopa falúw yeel me eyoor me Bwulasiyol Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóol website me [www.dpl.gov.mp](http://www.dpl.gov.mp) ngäre u mwuschel amwuri.
  - Ppwmwol schóól atkilóón nge Coldwell Energy 1 LLC. List-al officers ngáli Coldwell Energy 1 LLC nge David Hood, bwe Manager.
  - Ppwmwol atkilóón nge e angúungú fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sáangi officer me director-il Coldwell Energy 1 LLC, spesiatmente David Hood.
  - Schóól atkilóón ebwe yááyá falúw ngáli mwóghutughutúl "business warehouse" me "storage facility".
- Ppwmwol abwungubwung atkilóón nge ruweigh me limoow ráágh.
- Ppwmwol atkilóónol ghal ráágh nge e lo reel "percentage of the appraised fair market value" reel falúw fengál me "applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts" Ilól mwóghutughutúl DPL.
- Pappidil ppwmwol abwungubwungúl atkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh mereel Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2ndd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél, 1st floor me De'Ana Commercial Building, Apilómwol Songsong, Luuta; ngäre 1st floor reel PM Building, Tchiliyól. Ewal yoar pappidil mille online me [www.dpl.gov.mp](http://www.dpl.gov.mp)
  - Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh ppwmw iye e siiweli falúw reel atkilóónol falúw Ilól Puerto Rico, Seipél.
  - Sekkretóriyol Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap emmwel bweibwogh ischil mângemáng, views, angingi ngäre ppwmw iye re siiweli sáangi schóó kka re mwuschel wóol ngäre mmwalil Ottuubre 3, 2022, me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap ikka e lo wóol Seipél, Luuta ngäre Tchiliyól.





# 290 low-cost spay and neuter services completed

By FAHIM UDDIN  
fahimuddin489@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Dr. Kris Anderson, DVM, recently completed 290 spay

and neuter procedures at the Saipan Mayor's Office Multifunctional Animal Shelter in As Perdido, according to Bonnie Babies' Grace Keilbach.

"Mayor [David M.] Apatang and I, like many others that have availed the low-cost spay and neuter services, truly appreciate the progress of the

wonderful team that organized the operation. Dr. Kris Anderson is a wonderful veterinarian and highly skilled in high volume spay and neuter. The Boonie Babies Saipan and Boonie Flight Project are excellent support teams for Dr. Anderson, in that all intakes for surgeries are prepared by the teams. Similarly, the teams are responsible for post-surgery care, making sure that when a pet is turned over to the caring and responsible owner,

it is in good health and ready to enjoy a happy life with the owner," said special assistant to the mayor of Saipan, Henry Hofschneider.

The low-cost spay and neuter services were available on Saipan, thanks to the concerted efforts of Boonie Babies Saipan, Boonie Flight Project, and the Office of the Mayor of Saipan.

"The people and Bonnies of Saipan deserve access to veterinary care. We are look-

ing to make a lasting impact, ending the harsh cycle of life and death that these animals face living on the island," said Keilbach.

She also went on to thank everyone who helped set up the low-cost spay and neuter services.

"The activity wouldn't be conceivable without the overpowering help of the local area and individuals from all over the planet. Our social media following of north of 400,000 has permitted us to interface with veterinarians, raise gifts to help with the expenses, and even construct an organization with our adjoining islands of Guam and also Tinian... We are also excited to be taking our team to Tinian to provide spay/neuter services with their dog control program"

Despite some hardships, Keilbach said the low-cost spay and neuter services soldiers on at the Multifunctional Animal Shelter.

"The best kind of pure chaos occurs every day at the clinic. To serve as many people as possible, Boonie Babies, volunteers, and dog control employees are all exerting a lot of effort. Every day, our team makes operation improvements, and we are excited to see what we can accomplish as a team at the clinic's conclusion"

## Labor conducts MSHA Workshop on Tinian and Rota

The CNMI Department of Labor conducted a Mine Safety and Health Administration Workshop last Sept. 13, 2022 on Tinian and on Sept. 14, 2022 on Rota.

The eight-hour workshop was attended by surface mine operators (rock quarries), construction companies, and several other privately run businesses.

William "Bill" Shippey, CSE and president/CEO of Omega Safety Compliance, conducted the workshop on Tinian and Rota. Some of the topics discussed during the MSHA Workshop include

MSHA Requirements, Working Around Heavy Equipment, Safe Work Practices, Hazard Communication, and Most Common Hazards at Surface Mines.

CNMI acting director of Labor Enforcement, Jeffrey T. Camacho said, "We are able to provide the training and information for the MSHA workshop at no charge to the participants, thanks to assistance from the U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration."

Camacho added, "Safety in the workplace, particularly

at construction sites or rock quarries, is a top concern for the Department of Labor."

MSHA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Labor that develops and enforces safety and health rules for all U.S. mines, providing technical, educational and assistance to mine operators.

The agency's mission is to help reduce or prevent death, injuries, and illnesses at U.S. mines.

For further information, contact the CNMI Department of Labor at tel. 670-322-4365 or 670-664-3196. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Omega Safety Compliance president and CEO William "Bill" Shippey, CSE recently conducted a Mine Safety and Health Administration Workshop on Tinian and Rota.



FAHIM UDDIN

Dr. Grace Keilbach, DVM, and Saipan Mayor's Office Multifunctional Animal Shelter staff Leemark Deleon Guerrero.

## MVA welcomes new, returning members for FY 2023

The Marianas Visitors Authority welcomes new and returning members for the new fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 2022.

Businesses, organizations, and individuals are welcomed to join the state tourism agency for \$100/year. Accounts can be registered and paid

on MVA's English website at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com).

"It's an exciting and critical time for The Marianas tourism economy with the revival of our major source markets, particularly Korea and now Japan," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "COVID, the currency exchange rates, and other challenges remain, but there are also new opportunities, such as direct flights from Japan, the CNMI BOOST loan program for small businesses, and more. We welcome all parties interested in working to rebuild and strengthen Marianas travel and tourism, and we look forward to working together in Fiscal Year 2023."

The MVA currently has 144 members. Benefits of membership include: business list-

ing on the MVA's language-specific websites in Korean, Japanese, Chinese (traditional), and English; opportunities for business brochure distribution at MVA offices in The Marianas and internationally; opportunities to participate in travel and trade shows, sales seminars, and FAM tours; detailed visitor data through monthly statistics reports; nomination and voting rights for the MVA Board of Directors; the opportunity to be a supplier or contractor for the MVA; and the opportunity to serve on ad hoc committees.

For more information, visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com) or contact Community Projects Coordinator Jack Aranda at the MVA Membership Division at 1.670.664.3210 or at [jaranda@mymarianas.com](mailto:jaranda@mymarianas.com). (PR)

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.  
PO BOX 50 1055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950  
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-6962  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: [CPA.ADMIN@PTI.COM](mailto:CPA.ADMIN@PTI.COM) | WEBSITE: [WWW.CNMI-PORTS.COM](http://WWW.CNMI-PORTS.COM)

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

#### JANITORIAL SERVICES AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/ SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT & COMMUTER TERMINAL PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-011-22

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to provide janitorial services. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and/or products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone (NMIAC §40-50-225 (a)). The Scope of Work and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning **August 22, 2022**, upon payment of \$100.00 in cash, cashier's check or certified check to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport no later than **4:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**. Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority

**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**  
Executive Director

Date: August 18, 2022

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority**  
Office of the Governor  
"Driving You Forward"

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) relocated to the Administrative Building and Maintenance Facility located in Lowerbase, Saipan across the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Office. In addition, COTA's One-Call/One-Click Transportation Resource Center's contact number has changed to (670) 236-2682 effective August 25, 2022.

For additional information please contact COTA's Administrative Office at (670) 664-2682. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
/s/ **Amalia M. Magofna**  
**Acting Special Assistant for Public Transportation**

2nd Floor Rm. 216, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 664-2682; Fax: (670) 664-2692; Email: [alfredac.maratita@gov.mp](mailto:alfredac.maratita@gov.mp)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
**COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**  
**RFP22-CHCC/THC-020A**  
"ADDENDUM"  
RE-ANNOUNCEMENT/MODIFICATION OF MANDATORY SITE ASSESSMENT

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPT. 26TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)**

**"DESIGN SERVICES FOR TINIAN HEALTH CENTER (THC) GENERATOR REPLACEMENT"**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL** FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE ([WWW.CHCC.HEALTH](http://WWW.CHCC.HEALTH)). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ **ESTHER L. MUNA**  
**CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

/S/ **CORA P. ADA**  
**DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY**



# Public comment sought for BECQ water quality report

The CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Division of Environmental Quality, under the Office of the Governor, is seeking public comments on the draft of the 2022 Water Quality Assessment Integrated Report and supporting documents.

These have been made available for public review on DEQ's web page [www.deq.gov.mp](http://www.deq.gov.mp). URL: <https://www.deq.gov.mp/water-quality-surveillance-non-point-source.html>.

Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the U.S. Clean Water Act require that all states and territories, including the CNMI, monitor and assess all waters within the state and report the results to the public, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Congress every two years. Prior to final submission to USEPA and the U.S. Congress, public review is required and BECQ must address comments received by the public.

BECQ invites the public to review and provide comments on the 2022 Integrated Report, by submitting written comments in person to the BECQ office at the Gualo Rai Center on Middle Road (across from the Subway restaurant), by mail, or email.

Mailed comments should be addressed to Eli D. Cabrera, administrator, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP, 95950. Emailed comments should be written to: [cnmi.waterquality@gmail.com](mailto:cnmi.waterquality@gmail.com).

Comments should contain the subject line "2022 IR Comments" or similar. All comments must be received by BECQ no later than Oct. 19, 2022, in order for the comments to be considered by BECQ in the preparation of the final Integrated Report. **(PR)**

## Kagman to have water interruption this Saturday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a scheduled water service interruption for customers in Kagman on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022, from 8:30am to 4:00pm.

The scheduled water service interruption is to allow CUC water operators to repair a leak on the 50,000-gallon water tank in Kagman. Customers should expect restoration of water services soon after the repairs.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as we continue to provide reliable service to the people of the CNMI. CUC encourages customers in the Kagman area to store water in advance of this interruption and to practice water conservation measures such as closing the faucet while washing hands or brushing teeth, reducing toilet flushes, and delaying bathing and clothes washing until after the interruption.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). **(PR)**

## Compact-mandated Palau Economic Advisory Group launched

**REPUBLIC OF PALAU**—The Palau Economic Advisory Group, newly constituted to provide recommendations on how the United States can best contribute to the long-term economic stability and resilience of the island, convened its initial meeting Aug. 22-26, 2022. The goal of this first meeting was to learn about the country's economy and to begin to understand the successes, challenges, and opportunities facing Palau at this critical time, particularly coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) provided funding for administrative support to the EAG.

"The Department of the Interior is committed to providing support and assistance in the launch of the bilateral Palau Economic Advisory Group," said Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor. "We commend Palau for hosting the first meeting and applaud the EAG for taking the time to meet in Palau and begin these important conversations. We look forward to the final recommendations in recognition that economic sustainability for Palau is not only good for the island, but also for the region, and good for the United States."

As announced by the OIA on July 28, 2022, the five members were chosen with consideration given to the mix of expertise that would benefit the work of the bilateral advisory group.

The two EAG members designated by the Government of the United States of America are:

Dr. Peter Watson, former president and CEO of the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation and presently an investment banker and policy adviser; and Dr. Denise Eby Konan, dean of the College of Social Sciences, professor of economics, and former chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. The two EAG members designated by the Government of the Republic of Palau are:

T.H. Kaleb Udui, Minister of Finance for the Republic of Palau; and Dr. Naoyuki Yoshino, professor of economics


emeritus at Keio University, and former Dean and CEO of the Asian Development Bank Institute in Tokyo, Japan. The fifth EAG member, who was chosen by the U.S. government from a list of nominees provided by the government of Palau is:

Dr. James K. Galbraith, the Lloyd M. Bentsen Jr. chair in Government/Business Relations at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, professor of Government at the University of Texas at Austin, and former executive director of the Joint Economic Committee of the United States Congress. During the meetings in Palau, the EAG members met with Palau President Surangel Whipps, Jr., and officials from all levels, including national and state, executive and legislative, government and nongovernment, elected, and appointed officials. The discussions included reports of current programs, priorities, and challenges from the officials, and allowed EAG members to ask questions and explore their specific areas of interest. EAG members also selected professor Galbraith to serve as chairman.

The EAG plans to convene a second meeting in the coming months and then issue its initial report, as mandated, to the U.S. government and the government of Palau by early November 2022. It is expected that the initial report will be preliminary in nature, while subsequent reports will provide increasingly timely and detailed findings and recommendations for discussion between the two governments in annual bilateral economic consultations.

Further background information and work produced by the EAG can be found at their website at "palaeag.org."

The Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs and the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) carry out the Secretary of the Interior's responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. OIA and its work on [www.doi.gov/oia](http://www.doi.gov/oia), Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. **(PR)**




COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-22-040

A-16 Sewer Lift Station Generator Replacement



The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the A-16 Sewer Lift Station Generator Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary for the removal of the existing A-16 Sewer Lift Station 350 KW Generator and Automatic Transfer Switch, procurement of a new 350 KW generator and Automatic Transfer Switch, modification of the existing concrete generator pad to match the new pad size requirement (if needed), restoration of the existing oil containment berm, repair of exhaust & muffler, and equipment start-up and commissioning. The work shall be done in accordance with the Scope of Work and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 180 calendar days from date of award of contract.

**The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.**

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 21, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-040, A-16 Sewer Lift Station Generator Replacement"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 13, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of One Hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bonds must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 23, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address [nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org](mailto:nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org) and to Marcela Tenorio, P&S, Purchasing Technician Senior via email, [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS | OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

JUAN A. SABLAN BUILDING | CALLER BOX 10007 | SAIPAN, MP 96950 | 670.664.2417 | INFO@HM.GOV.MP



INVITATION FOR BID

Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters- Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Tanapag Youth Center

ITB22-GOV-42200151

The Office of the Governor, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), through the Governor's Authorized Representative (collectively, "Commonwealth") on behalf of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DCCA), is soliciting sealed bids for the supply and installation of typhoon shutters at the DCCA Tanapag Youth Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The ITB package will be available starting **September 8, 2022**, at the Office of the Governor, HMGP Office, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950, starting between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Government observed holidays upon presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CNMI Treasury by cash or credit in the amount of \$25.00 for the ITB package set.

All interested bidders must include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid package to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Pohnpei Way, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950. Bidding procedures shall fully comply with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor, and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

There will be a pre-bid meeting for this project on **September 23, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. ChST at the DCCA Tanapag Youth Center**. Questions or requests for clarification shall be submitted in writing to Ms. Leona Deleon Guerrero, Program Manager, via email at [ldguerrero@omb.gov.mp](mailto:ldguerrero@omb.gov.mp) no later than **September 28, 2022**. Responses to questions or clarification will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB22-GOV-42200151 Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters- DCCA Tanapag Youth Center**. One original and three copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services, 1st Floor Horiguchi Building, Kopa Di Oru Street, Garapan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **9:30 a.m. ChST, October 12, 2022**. Bidders outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days to receive their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than **9:30 a.m. ChST, October 12, 2022**, must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via email to [bidintent@dof.gov.mp](mailto:bidintent@dof.gov.mp). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **October 12, 2022**, and mailed to the Director of Procurement Services P.O. BOX 510008 CK, Saipan MP 96950 and the bid documents must be received no later than **October 20, 2021**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be a cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement Services, 1st Floor Horiguchi Building, Kopa Di Oru Street, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950, at **9:30 a.m. ChST, October 21, 2022**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open and read at **9:30 a.m. ChST, October 12, 2022**.

Bids higher than Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the proposal. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check, or other forms acceptable to the Government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety satisfactory to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the **CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the cheque: "Credit Account No. 44660"**. If a bid bond is submitted, it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, **each equal to 100%** of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Before the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit the following:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has the authority to issue a bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the Procurement Services Director, to substitute an acceptable bond before executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only 1) Cash, 2) U.S. Government Securities, 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on U.S. Security Exchange, 4) Real property owned in fee simple in the U.S.; and 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completing this project is **120 calendar days** upon issuing a Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be **\$100.00/day**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the CNMI.

The Government reserves the right to reject any proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the CNMI. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Patrick C. Guerrero  
Governor's Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director  
CNMI Procurement Services



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 188

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
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### EDITORIAL

## Roberts asks why trust in the court has plunged. He's seated among the answers

Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts lamented recently that he didn't "understand" why the court's legitimacy has been diminished in Americans' eyes merely because it has issued "opinions people disagree with." If he really thinks that's the problem, then, no, he doesn't understand at all. Any sober assessment of the court's behavior in the relatively brief period since Senate Republicans repeatedly rewrote the rules to stack it with conservatives yields a clear conclusion: The court is increasingly being viewed as a tool for partisan political hackery because it's increasingly acting like one.

The court's current conservative majority is in place primarily because of the darkly impressive gamesmanship of then-Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. He infamously held one vacant seat open for 11 months on the makeshift premise that the next president should choose, then rammed through another nominee in mere weeks to ensure that a subsequent president couldn't. Shameless hypocrisy, once a bug in politics, was thus confirmed as a feature for today's GOP.

As damaging as that Machiavellian stunt was to the court's legitimacy, it might have rebounded if not for its behavior since then. Though blessed with lifetime appointments that supposedly insulate justices from the muck of partisanship, the court's majority has nonetheless hewed to the Republican political agenda as diligently as any freshman legislator on issues like gun restrictions, the environment and, most of all, abortion rights.

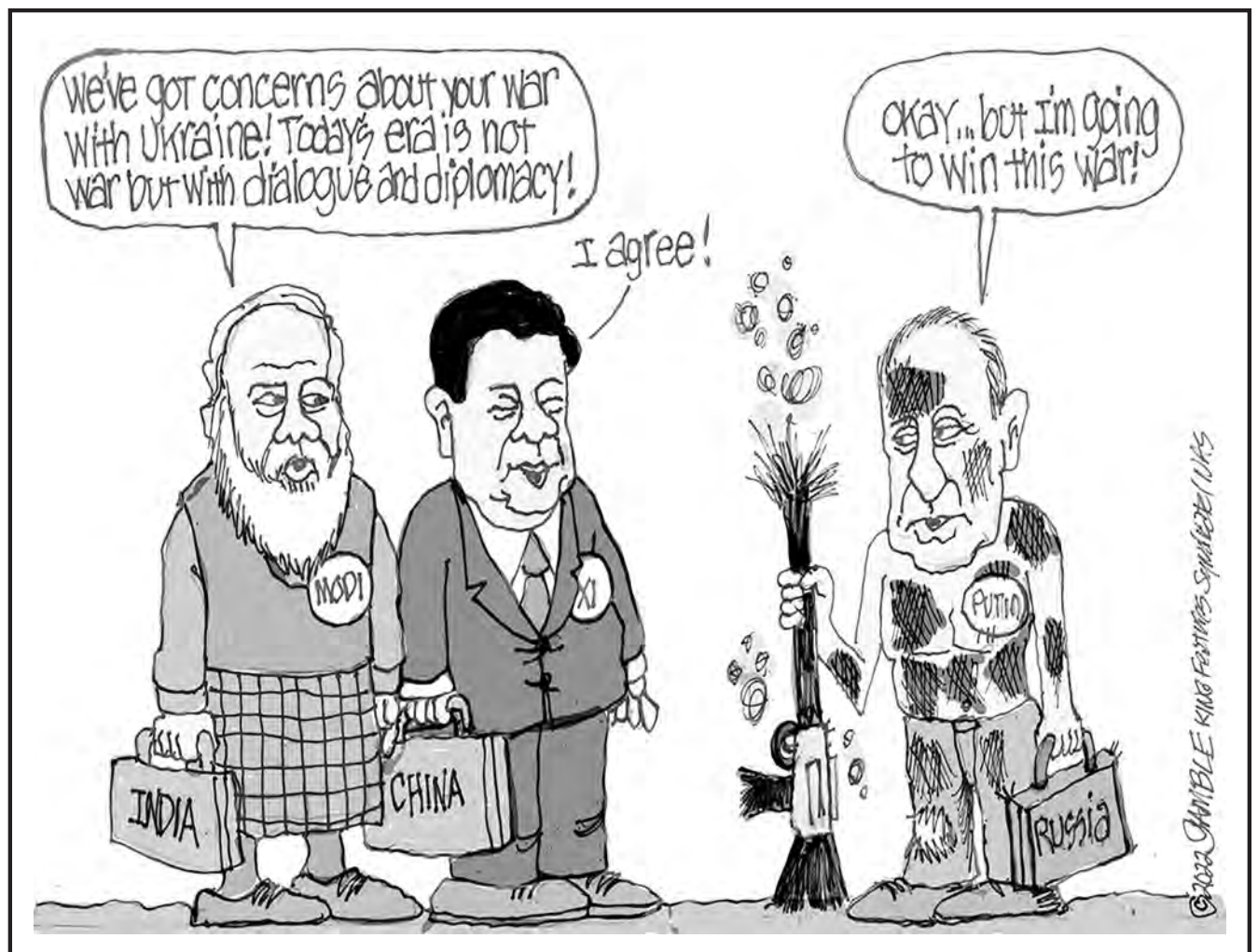
In its *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision this year, the court's majority overturned a half-century of precedent protecting abortion rights even though (as Roberts himself wrote in a scolding concurrence) it wasn't a necessary step to decide the case at hand. Yet the court's five hard-core conservatives eagerly reached around that case to bigfoot into the broader culture-war fight over abortion.

As the scathing dissent by the court's three liberals correctly noted, the majority discarded *Roe* and other abortion rights precedents "for one and only one reason: because it has always despised them, and now it has the votes to discard them. The majority thereby substitutes a rule by judges for the rule of law."

To revamp standing law for no reason except that one side suddenly has the votes is how legislatures operate. It's not how judges should. Judges are, or are supposed to be, bound by precedent until there is a compelling legal reason to break from it. Yet in this case, the only reason they did it was that they could.

Notwithstanding his feigned confusion, it's unlikely Roberts doesn't understand the problem with that; again, he expressed exasperation over it in his own *Dobbs* concurrence. Which begs the question of why he is lecturing America now about its lack of trust in the court instead of working to remind his fellow conservative justices that they are indeed justices, and not Republican members of Congress.

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## Driving an EV does not make you pro-environment

When I started driving an electric vehicle in 2018, I became part of the problem.

Not for the reasons cited by EV critics during the recent heat wave, when the state asked that electric cars not be charged during peak demand. That prompted howls of "I told you so" from those who think the electrification of everything from home appliances to cars is a left-wing pipe dream, especially in light of California's mandate requiring 100% of all new vehicle sales to be zero-emission by 2035.

Nor am I part of the problem because of the worries expressed ad nauseam by EV skeptics, few of which have much merit.

Yes, driving distance is an issue, but only for a tiny percentage of trips.

Yes, my electricity bill is higher, but the additional cost is far lower than what drivers pay for gas.

Yes, apartment and condo dwellers who cannot plug in at night have legitimate concerns, because they must rely on our public charging infrastructure—which is growing.

Yes, EVs have a carbon footprint, but still typically much smaller than those of gas cars. On this, the evidence is so compelling that it's hard to imagine survival on this planet unless we immediately replace gas-powered autos with electric ones. Consequently, if the state and federal governments want to take meaningful action on climate change, they have no choice but to subsidize EV buyers.

And that's part of the problem. In the end, an electric car is still, well, a car—and mass car ownership has devastating environmental consequences beyond tailpipe emissions.

I became part of this car culture in 2018, after *The Times* moved from downtown L.A. to El Segundo. Until then I was a dedicated transit commuter and even held out for months after *The Times*' relocation. But five hours a day on buses and trains eventually got to me, so I leased a Nissan Leaf.

Then a funny thing happened: Some well-meaning people reacted as if I had done the world a favor. Never mind the loss of a transit user to 60-mile daily drives—I had become an EV operator, once pitied for bus riding, now praised for driving.

But electric vehicles, like gas-powered cars, require vast expanses of concrete and asphalt for automotive use. This paving over of entire regions has turned neighborhoods into heat sinks that soak up energy from the sun during the day and release it at night—not exactly what we want in an era of accelerating climate change.

And electric vehicles, like gas-powered cars, force their driv-

By **PAUL THORNTON**  
Los Angeles Times

Paul Thornton is the Los Angeles Times' letters editor.



ers to sit in the same traffic jams as everyone else, often on freeways that required the bulldozing of long-established, minority communities to be built. In Downey, locals are fighting a highway expansion plan that would displace residents from more than 200 homes. I haven't asked, but something tells me "yeah, but more electric cars" wouldn't convince those residents to give up fighting for their homes.

And electric vehicles, like gas-powered cars, needlessly kill people. In the city of Los Angeles, a record 294 people were killed in traffic in 2021. Inadequate infrastructure is largely to blame, but so is the increasing size of cars—and electric cars are getting bigger too, to make them more appealing to American consumers.

This isn't to say there aren't benefits to replacing dirty vehicles with zero-emission ones. Cities need to curb air pollution, and electric cars cause very little of it. Children living near freeways have higher rates of asthma, and trading internal combustion engines for electric motors would certainly help them.

But replacing one kind of car for another isn't enough if cities like Los Angeles want to be anything other than traffic-choked dystopias. Right now, subsidizing EV ownership to the tune of nearly \$10,000 off a car's sticker price (in California) may be necessary to reduce the acceleration of climate change, but it's also just a Band-Aid to buy time for systemic change to take hold.

And what kind of systemic change would that be? Build out a big public transit system (L.A. is trying), and make it free, reliable and safe. Subsidize the purchase of electric bikes, which make it easier to commute longer distances on devices that use considerably less power and road space than electric cars. Think more of what people in neighborhoods need than what people driving through those neighborhoods want.

And for the love of God, shelter every bus stop on every block, so riders don't risk sunstroke when they take transit during a heat wave.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## Things are looking better for Ukraine, or maybe not

**V**olodymyr Zelenskyy is a tough, smart, caring leader, and he just got the battlefield best of Vladimir Putin, a do-or-die, obsessed, evil leader. The clever, tricky, intelligence-guided triumph was obviously encouraging and inspiring for Zelenskyy's fellow Ukrainians who have suffered so much.

After all, it was said by many, the Ukrainian military had no chance at all against Putin's Russian military with its advantages galore, but glory, glory hallelujah for this brave Russian neighbor supported by weapons and other means by the United States and Europe.

Questions still plague Ukraine. One is whether it can use this victory to pile up others to the point that the Russian military is clearly done for. Another is whether the Russians will retreat even if that happens, whether Putin will bow his head in shame, bring the soldiers home and help rescue his own people from withering away.

No. He won't, except as a tactic. Given what we know about the man, there is no way he would out-and-out surrender and trash his world-dominating causes. He would first have to convert to being a second Queen Elizabeth in terms of virtue and wisdom except that he might be removed from power or assassinated if his multitudinous safeguards don't work. True enough, he has been popular with the Russian people, although that may not last, and he does love Russia.

It almost seems that, in his inner self, he is Russia, and more than that, he is the Soviet Union, the multinational, totalitarian,

malicious entity that vied with the United States to be the world's superpower and lost and went away. It was the gravest geopolitical tragedy of all times, according to Putin, who didn't exactly like the recently deceased, worthy Mikhail Gorbachev, the last leader of the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev ended a war with Afghanistan after 10 years instead of 20. He wisely worked with President Ronald Reagan to end the Cold War and lessen nuclear threats. His dedication to communism shifted to something more nearly like democratic socialism, and when Soviet states decided to go their own way, he did not like it but did not intervene militarily.

To Putin, a former spy for the Kremlin and downright murderous in the cause of self and Russia, all of this was disaster, the end of the earth and maybe the solar system. He lost his attachment to ineffective communism, but has brilliantly done international harm that can maybe further his ambitions.

While Russia itself is decaying, it still has mountains of nuclear weaponry, enough to wipe out this, that or the other nation. To his monetary benefit, Bill Clinton helped Russia become the world's foremost uranium power, according to a trustworthy New York Times account, and the Biden administration has been buying uranium from Russia to supply our nuclear plants.

The quivering issue now is whether Putin might use nuclear weaponry to win the Ukrainian war. If he does, even with toned-down missiles, what would we do? Respond in like manner and

**By JAY AMBROSE**

Tribune News Service



*Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at [speaktojay@aol.com](mailto:speaktojay@aol.com).*

risk nuclear war or even choose to respond differently but decisively, still a gamble that might bring tragedy?

This much should be said, namely that a Russian conquest of Ukraine would be step one in trying to get other countries in a renewed Soviet Union, meaning millions more lives lost. Those who think our financial support of Ukraine is wasted money should consider the conceivable cost of its defeat. It doesn't follow that anything goes.

Putin, in the meantime, is exchanging hugs with Xi Jinping, president of China, ever more dangerous to the United States and the world, and someone who might back him up and sell him weaponry, for starters. These two together are an awful threat. President Richard Nixon broke up such an alliance in the 1970s through a trade deal with China, but the good does not always hang in there.

## Tired of overdraft fees? Try postal banking

**M**any of us have been hit by an overdraft fee on our checking account before, and while it was nice to have the protection, the \$33 charge—the average overdraft fee these days—definitely stung.

What if I told you that overdraft fees are an intentional chess move by the wealthy few in a game increasingly rigged against the rest of us?

Banks have taken in more than \$460 billion in overdraft fees since 2010. In the final three months of 2020 alone, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo and Bank of America collectively brought in more than \$300 million in overdraft fees. One bank CEO—Bill Cooper of the Minnesota-based TCF National Bank, which was sued by the federal government for “tricking consumers into costly overdraft services”—even named his yacht “Overdraft.”

It's not a stretch to call overdraft fees predatory. The Consumer Finance Protection Bureau (CFPB) has found that under 9% of consumer accounts pay 10 or more overdrafts per year. That means that a small percentage of accounts—likely lower-income consumers—make up almost 80% of all overdraft revenue.

What if I also told you that it didn't have to be this way—that in more than 100 other countries, people don't have to worry about overdraft fees? This is because those countries have publicly funded postal banking. People in countries as diverse as

South Africa and Kazakhstan can open an account, cash a check, get money or deposit at low-fee ATMs, do a money transfer, pay bills and more without a predatory bank siphoning off profits for their executives' yachts.

That's why the U.S. Postal Service needs to expand its small postal banking pilot program, which launched last year—even if it wasn't as popular as expected. The agency only offered banking services at four locations and did little to market the program.

To be effective, the program needs to be dramatically scaled to meet demand. The number of Americans who are “unbanked” is staggering. One in four U.S. Census tracts, which are home to 21 million people, do not have any banks within their borders. Over 7 million people do not have a bank account.

This harms everyone. Without a bank account, it can be difficult to participate in the economy. With the more commonly used direct deposit payroll, it can be hard to get a job, purchase a car or pay rent. Instead, low-income people rely on predatory payday lending. Payday loans come with an absurd interest rate—often starting at 300 percentage points, which can double over time.

Just like overdraft fees, payday loans are meant to be a “short term” solution. But they don't shake out that way in reality. Some 76% of the total volume in the industry comes from borrowers re-borrowing before their next paycheck.

**By DEVIN THOMAS O'SHEA**

Progressive Perspectives



*Devin Thomas O'Shea is a writer living in St. Louis. This column was produced by Progressive Perspectives, which is run by The Progressive magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

The banks and the elected officials who carry their water call postal banking “radical.” Yet the Postal Service offered banking from 1911 to 1967, and reinstating the service could generate a much-needed \$9 billion in revenue for the agency every year. One of the reasons postal banking was ended is that it offered relatively high interest rates, which competed with “more traditional banking institutions.”

Worldwide, 1.5 billion people receive financial services at their local post office. There's no reason the United States can't follow suit. Recent polling shows that a strong majority of Democrats—and even Republicans—support postal banking. The only thing in our way is the billions of dollars in lobbying Wall Street spends every election cycle to protect their predatory profit-making.

## In Ukraine, there's no substitute for hard power

**T**he ongoing Ukrainian counter-offensive, if successful, could reshape the war and the geopolitical contours of Europe.

It is a testament to Ukrainian pluck and staying power but, above all, to the advanced weapons that the West has put in the hands of the Ukrainians.

Soft power, the coinage of political scientist Joseph Nye for the ability of a country to get others to do what it wants without coercion, is important; hard power is absolutely indispensable.

This is easy to forget in a West that believes deeply in democratic ideals and moral example. Even if it is true, as optimists believe, that the arc of moral history bends toward justice, an armored division can smash and bend it back.

The history of the West is in part the history of arms races, in fortresses, cannons, ships, rifles, aircrafts and much else.

Empires have risen and fallen on the strength of military hardware. Cities have conquered or been destroyed. Armies have triumphed or dissolved.

After the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy had bucketfuls of soft power. He was the most admired man in the world. He spoke at the United Nations, to Congress and other national legislative bodies, and even at the Grammys. What did that get him? It helped solidify the good will of Western countries, which was essential. He constantly tried to leverage that sentiment, though, for the hardheaded priority of more weapons.

Zelenskyy could still be admired in death, or in a Russian prison, or as an exile. Yet, if he wanted to continue to be admired as the leader of an independent country, he needed sheer firepower.

Ukraine's cause hasn't gotten any more just or inspiring over the last couple of months; it's gotten better armed.

Ukraine couldn't win a straight-up artillery fight with the Russians, and in fact it was losing one in a grinding war of attrition. A HIMARS, or high mobility artillery rocket system, versus artillery fight, though, is a different matter.

The Ukrainians have used these long-range, precision systems provided by the U.S. to hit Russian artillery parks, ammunition dumps and logistical hubs. The strikes have caused breakdowns in Russia's fuel and ammunition supplies as well as in the cohesion of its troops and command-and-control.

The Ukraine war has been a conflict of stark phases and strategic adjustments and re-adjustments. The Russians will presumably have their answer to the current Ukrainian push, and if they don't, one reason will be that they are running out of those pillars of hard power—men and materiel.

Paul Lockhart writes in “Firepower,” his book about the history of weapons of war: “Technological sophistication and military might are, to be sure, not synonymous but closely connected, and military might is a vital factor in the calculus of international relations. Great powers tend to have great weapons, or at least a lot of really good weapons.”

We should be mindful of this, not just in the assistance we

**By RICH LOWRY**

King Features Synd., Inc.



*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*






provide to Ukraine but in our priorities for ourselves. Our military budget needs to be much bigger, and our defense industrial base is wholly insufficient to the new, more threatening international environment. We would run out of rockets quickly in a war with China. Even supporting Ukraine at the current level has been a strain.

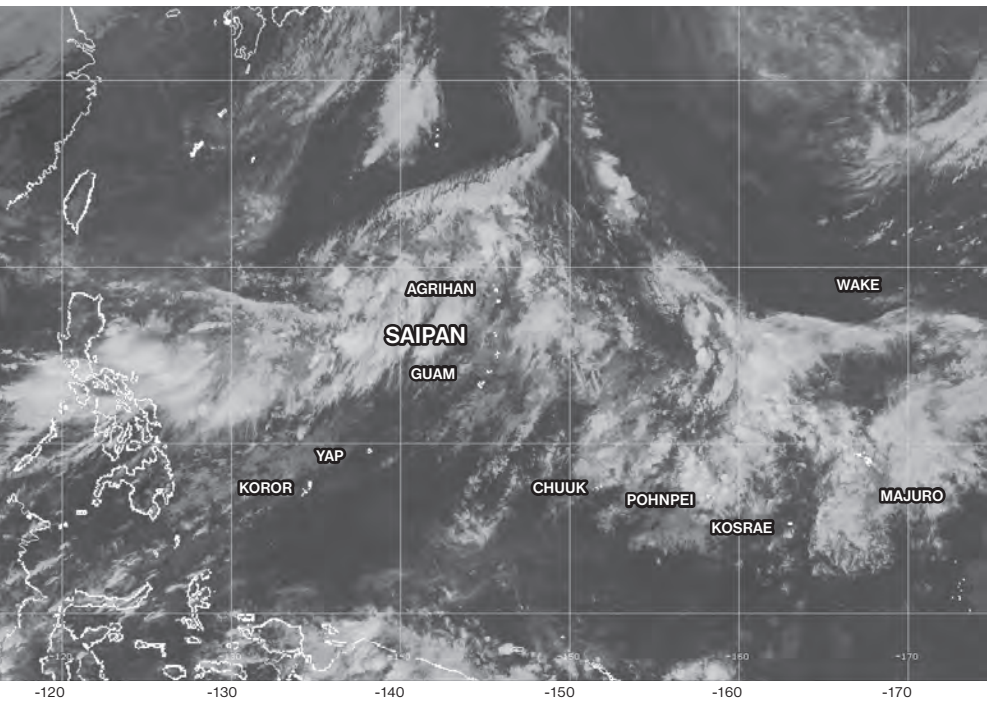
The United States is a marvel of soft power, binding allies to us, attracting people all over the world who want to come here, and reaching the most far-flung places in the world. What we've been able to provide Ukraine that has been most telling, though, hasn't been diplomatic or moral support, rather a system that can put a rocket directly on a target up to 50 miles away.

That's been the game changer, as better, more sophisticated military technology has always been from long bows, to arquebuses, to fighter jets. There is simply no substitute for hard power.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny		Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny		Mostly cloudy		A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy		A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	
88°	76°	88°	76°	87°	76°	88°	76°	88°	77°



**PICTURE TIME: 9:59 AM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2022**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Doppler radar shows showers have started to stratify over the islands with warming cloud tops in infrared satellite imagery, especially over Rota, Tinian and Saipan, which saw the bulk of the rain overnight. Altimetry and buoy data across the Marianas shows combined seas are between 5 to 6 feet this morning.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)*

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F		
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 75°
Kosrae	Cloudy	84° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:14 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:52 AM	3:16 PM	-
Thursday	2:45 AM	3:59 PM	-
Friday	3:37 AM	4:39 PM	-
Saturday	4:28 AM	5:17 PM	-
Sunday	5:18 AM	5:54 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F		
Auckland	Thundershowers	65° / 52°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	82° / 60°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	69° / 50°
Los Angeles	Sunny	80° / 62°
Manila	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°
Melbourne	Cloudy	66° / 50°
Miami	Rain	87° / 79°
New York	Mostly Sunny	81° / 62°
Osaka	Cloudy	75° / 65°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	68° / 45°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	74° / 65°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	80° / 55°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	91° / 68°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	71° / 58°
Seoul	Sunny	76° / 55°
Tokyo	Cloudy	71° / 62°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	85° / 62°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
3:09 AM	High Tide	1.45
10:40 AM	Low Tide	0.19
6:09 PM	High Tide	1.71
11:44 PM	Low Tide	1.13

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2022							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6	UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily	PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam
SAIPAN-NARITA				NARITA-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:00AM	9:30AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00 AM+1	2, 4, 7
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	4
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3, 4, 7	7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	3, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
				TW307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
				TW307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:00PM	6:35PM	3, 7	BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7	7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T*Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T\*Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.	

ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	

SAIPAN TO GUAM		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.	

GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily



# Manta Ray Battalion cadets take part in ICC



The Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Battalion cadets participated in their first International Coastal Cleanup last Saturday at Pakpak Beach.

Two groups of cadets were formed. The first group was assigned to clean up the beach's southern side. The second group focused on the north side.

Battalion leaders kept track of the types of trash being thrown away while the cadets were cleaning. Plastics, cigarette butts, and glass bottles made up

the majority of the trash.

Around 9:45am, the Manta Ray Battalion cadets finished their mission after beginning the cleanup at 8am. They reunited and gathered all the trash bags that needed to be thrown away. The Manta Ray cadets are happy with their participation in the International Coastal Cleanup. The cadets benefited from learning how to protect the environment as well as how to maintain the cleanliness of the community. (PR)



## Medquest Medical Supply teams up with church in ICC



Volunteers from Medquest Medical Supply and Upper Room International Ministry participated in the 2022 International Coastal Cleanup.

The two groups chose San Isidro Beach Park as their site for the 2022 ICC and they picked up trash from 8am to 10pm last Saturday.

In all, 24 volunteered for the groups' ICC and they were able to collect 90 lbs of trash.

The Top 3 trash picked up by Medquest Medical Supply and Upper Room International Ministry volunteers were cigarette butts, micro trash like food wrappers, and plastic water bottles.

Medquest Medical Supply and

Upper Room International Ministry teamed up to join this event as a social responsibility. Both believed that this program provides a fun and easy way to volunteer and engage with their mission to protect our environment.

"Being a part of this event makes you feel more connected to nature. While it is so disheartening to see trash in the sea and along the shoreline, the great news is that we can do something about it to help our environment," said Medquest Medical Supply's Ellen Joy P. Dionisio.

Upper Room International Ministry was led by pastor Danilo Ibanez. (PR)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A total of 24 volunteers from Medquest Medical Supply and Upper Room International Ministry took part in the 2022 International Coastal Cleanup last Saturday and collected 90 lbs of trash at San Isidro Beach Park.



# Business

## How to get student loan refund if you paid during the pandemic

**NEW YORK (AP)**—When President Joe Biden announced a plan to forgive student loan debt, many borrowers who kept making payments during the pandemic wondered if they'd made the right choice.

Borrowers who paid down their debt during a pandemic freeze that started in March 2020 can in fact get a refund—and then apply for forgiveness.

If you think you're eligible, here's what you need to know:

### Who is eligible for a refund?

Borrowers who hold eligible federal student loans and have made voluntary payments since March 13, 2020, can get a refund, according to the Department of Education.

For some people, that refund will be automatic. You can get a refund without applying if your payments brought your loan balance below the maximum debt relief amount: \$10,000 for all borrowers, and \$20,000 for Pell Grant recipients. Borrowers can check their balance in their studentaid.gov account.

For example, if a borrower paid \$100 a month for 10 months of the pandemic and their balance is now \$8,000, that \$1,000 will automatically be refunded. Then they can apply to get the rest of their debt forgiven.

But if a borrower paid throughout the pandemic and still owes \$14,000, they won't get an automatic refund. They can, however, apply to have \$10,000 of that debt erased.

Another group of people that has to apply for a refund is those who completely paid off their loan balance during the pandemic. If that's you, you're eligible for loan forgiveness, but you'll have to request a refund prior to applying for debt relief. Borrowers should confirm their eligibility for the loan forgiveness program prior to requesting a refund.

For example, if a borrower had \$5,000 in debt at the start of the pandemic and paid it all back during the freeze, but is eligible for up to \$10,000 in forgiveness, they would apply for a \$5,000 refund, then apply to have their debt forgiven.

"Borrowers who paid off their loans during the pause will need to request a refund first, then request cancellation," said a spokesperson from the Department of Education.

The refund is not available for private student loans.

Eligible federal student loans:

- Direct Loans (defaulted and non defaulted)

- Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program loans held by ED (defaulted and non defaulted)

- Federal Perkins Loans held by ED (defaulted and non defaulted)

- Defaulted FFEL Program loans not held by ED

- Defaulted HEAL loans

If you are not sure which loan you have, visit your dashboard at studentaid.gov and find the "my loan servicers" section. If you can't access your dashboard, you can call the Federal Student Aid office at 1-800-433-3243 to ask for loan servicer information.

### How can I apply for a refund?

Borrowers who want a specific amount refunded can apply by calling their loan service provider. Right now, refunds are only being done via phone and not through any website or email.

When the Biden Administration announced the forgiveness, loan servicers found themselves inundated with calls. But many borrowers now say they're not waiting long when calling.

If you are unsure who services your loan, or if the servicer changed during the pandemic, visit your student aid account dashboard and scroll to "my loan servicers" or call 1-800-433-3243.

Before calling your loan provider to request your refund, you need to know your account number and the amount you want refunded.

- Loan servicers' phone numbers:

- FedLoan Servicing: 1-800-699-2908

- Great Lakes Educational Loan Services, Inc.: 1-800-236-4300

- Edfinancial: 1-855-337-6884

- MOHELA: 1-888-866-4352

- Aidvantage: 1-800-722-1300

- Nelnet: 1-888-486-4722

- OSLA Servicing: 1-866-264-9762

- ECSI: 1-866-313-3797

- Default Resolution Group: 1-800-621-3115 (1-877-825-9923 for the deaf or hard of hearing)

### How will the refund work—and when will my loans be forgiven?

When you request a refund,

the amount that you have paid during the payment freeze will be added back to your student loan balance, said Katherine Welbeck, Civil Rights Counsel for the Student Borrower Protection Center.

That amount is still eligible for cancellation and can be eliminated after you apply for forgiveness.

You're eligible for debt relief if you had an annual federal income below \$125,000 individually or \$250,000 if you're married or head of household in 2020 or 2021. The application is expected to open in early October and you can apply until Dec. 31, 2023.

It is unclear when borrowers will see debt relief. So far, the plan only mentions borrowers will be notified by their loan servicer when their debt is forgiven. There is also a possibility that forgiveness could be delayed if the Biden administration faces legal challenges.

### When is the deadline to apply?

The deadline to apply for a refund is Dec. 31, 2023. However, Welbeck recommends that you apply for a refund before you apply for debt forgiveness.

"If you apply first, you can process the refund to get your money back, and then that balance in your account is canceled," Welbeck said.

The application process for loan forgiveness is expected to take four to six weeks.

The Department of Education is offering a subscription page where you can sign up to be notified when the application is open.

### How much can I get refunded?

You can get a refund for the entire amount you paid during the payment freeze, according to the Department of Education. However, you can choose a lower amount.

You might pick this option if, during the pandemic, you paid enough to get your debt below the maximum amount of forgiveness. You could get a partial refund, then apply to have your remaining debt wiped out.

Say you had \$15,000 worth of debt remaining at the beginning of the payment freeze and have since paid \$8,000, but qualify for \$10,000 in debt relief. You might decide to ask for a refund of just \$3,000. Then, your debt balance will be exactly \$10,000, and you can apply for maximum loan forgiveness.

# Nation

## 'Serial' case: Adnan Syed is released, conviction tossed



Adnan Syed, center, leaves the Cummings Courthouse, Monday, Sept. 19, 2022, in Baltimore. AP

**BALTIMORE (AP)**—A Baltimore judge on Monday ordered the release of Adnan Syed after overturning Syed's conviction for the 1999 murder of high school student Hae Min Lee—a case that was chronicled in the hit podcast "Serial," a true-crime series that transfixed listeners and revolutionized the genre.

At the behest of prosecutors who had uncovered new evidence, Circuit Court Judge Melissa Phinn ordered that Syed's conviction be vacated as she approved

the release of the now-41-year-old who has spent more than two decades behind bars. There were gasps and applause in the crowded courtroom as the judge announced her decision.

Phinn ruled that the state violated its legal obligation to share evidence that could have bolstered Syed's defense. She ordered Syed to be placed on home detention with GPS location monitoring. The judge also said the state must decide whether to seek a new trial date or dismiss the case within 30 days.

"All right Mr. Syed, you're free to join your family," Phinn said as the hearing ended.

Minutes later, Syed emerged from the courthouse and flashed a smile as he was shepherded to a waiting SUV through a sea of cameras and a cheering crowd of supporters.

Syed did not speak during the hearing, nor did he address the reporters outside afterward. But after the hearing, his lawyer Erica Suter described his reaction to the decision, saying: "He said he couldn't believe it's real."

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Damage assessments begin in flooded remote Alaska villages

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)**—Authorities in Alaska were making contact Monday with some of the most remote villages in the United States to determine their food and water needs, as well as assess the damage after a massive storm flooded communities on the state's vast western coast this weekend. No one was reported injured or killed during the massive storm—the remnants of Typhoon Merbok—as it traveled north through the Bering Strait over the weekend. However, damage to homes, roads and other infrastructure is only starting to be revealed as floodwaters recede. About 21,000 residents living in the small communities dotting a 1,000-mile (1,609-kilometer) stretch of Alaska's western coastline—a distance longer than the entire length of California's coast—were impacted by the storm.

#### US officials: Border crossings soar among Venezuelans

**SAN DIEGO (AP)**—The number of Venezuelans taken into custody at the U.S. border with Mexico soared in August, while fewer migrants from Mexico and some Central American countries were stopped, officials said Monday. Venezuelans surpassed Guatemalans and Hondurans to become the second-largest nationality after Mexicans among migrants crossing the U.S. border illegally. U.S. authorities stopped Venezuelans 25,349 times in August, up 43% from 17,652 times in July and four times the 6,301 stops recorded in August 2021. At the same time, it was the third straight month that fewer immigrants from Mexico and Central America's Northern Triangle countries of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. Those nationalities have dominated the mix for decades. Overall, U.S. authorities stopped migrants 203,598 times in August, up 1.8%

from 199,976 times in July but down 4.7% from 213,593 times in August 2021.

#### Texas sheriff investigating flights to Martha's Vineyard

**AUSTIN, Texas (AP)**—A Texas sheriff on Monday opened an investigation into two flights of migrants sent to Martha's Vineyard by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, but did not say what laws may have been broken in putting 48 Venezuelans on private planes last week from San Antonio. Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar, an elected Democrat, railed against the flights that took off in his city as political posturing. But he said investigators had so far only spoken to attorneys representing some of the migrants and did not name any potential suspects who might face charges. He also did not mention DeSantis in a news conference that appeared to mark the first time a law enforcement official has said they would look into the flights.



# World

## Ukraine warns of 'nuclear terrorism' after strike near plant

**KYIV, Ukraine (AP)**—A Russian missile blasted a crater close to a nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine on Monday, damaging nearby industrial equipment but not hitting its three reactors. Ukrainian authorities denounced the move as an act of "nuclear terrorism."

The missile struck within 300 meters (328 yards) of the reactors at the South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plant near the city of Yuzhnoukrainsk in Mykolaiv province, leaving a hole 2 meters (6 1/2 feet) deep and 4 meters (13 feet) wide, according to Ukrainian nuclear operator Energoatom.

The reactors were operating normally and no employees were injured, it said. But the proximity of the strike renewed fears that Russia's nearly 7-month-long war in

Ukraine might produce a radiation disaster.

This nuclear power station is Ukraine's second-largest after the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, which has repeatedly come under fire.

Following recent battlefield setbacks, Russian President Vladimir Putin threatened last week to step up Russian attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure. Throughout the war, Russia has targeted Ukraine's electricity generation and transmission equipment, causing blackouts and endangering the safety systems of the country's nuclear power plants.

The industrial complex that includes the South Ukraine plant sits along the Southern Bug River about 300 kilometers (190 miles) south of the capital, Kyiv. The attack caused



SOUTH UKRAINE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT PRESS OFFICE VIA AP

In this photo provided by the South Ukraine nuclear power plant, a crater left by a Russian rocket is seen 300 meter from the South Ukraine nuclear power plant, in the background, close to Yuzhnoukrainsk, Mykolaiv region, Ukraine, Monday, Sept. 19, 2022.

Russian forces have occupied the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, Europe's largest, since early after the invasion. Shelling has cut off the plant's transmission lines, forcing operators to shut down its six reactors to avoid a radiation disaster. Russia and Ukraine have traded blame for the strikes.

The IAEA, which has stationed monitors at the Zaporizhzhia plant, said a main transmission line was reconnected Friday, providing the electricity it needs to cool its reactors.

the temporary shutdown of a nearby hydroelectric power plant and shattered more than 100 windows at the complex, Ukrainian authorities said. The U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency said three

power lines were knocked offline but later reconnected.

Ukraine's Defense Ministry released a black-and-white video showing two large fireballs erupting one after the other in the dark, followed by incan-

descent showers of sparks, at 19 minutes after midnight. The ministry and Energoatom called the strike "nuclear terrorism."

The Russian Defense Ministry did not immediately comment on the attack.

## Witnesses: Myanmar air attack kills 13, including 7 children

**BANGKOK (AP)**—Government helicopters have attacked a school and village in north-central Myanmar, killing at least 13 people including seven children, a school administrator and an aid worker said Monday.

Civilian casualties often occur in attacks by the military government on pro-democracy insurgents and their allies. However, the number of children killed in the air

attack last Friday in Tabayin township in Sagaing region appeared to be the highest since the army seized power in February last year, ousting the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

The army's takeover triggered mass nonviolent protests nationwide. The military and police responded with deadly force, resulting in the spread of armed resistance in the cities and coun-

tryside. Fighting has been especially fierce in Sagaing, where the military has launched several offensives, in some cases burning villages, which displaced more than half a million people, according to a report issued by UNICEF this month.

Friday's attack occurred in Let Yet Kone village in Tabayin, also known as Depayin, about 110 kilometers (70 miles) northwest of Man-

dalay, the country's second-largest city.

School administrator Mar Mar said she was trying to get students to safe hiding places in ground-floor classrooms when two of four Mi-35 helicopters hovering north of the village began attacking, firing machine guns and heavier weapons at the school, which is in the compound of the village's Buddhist monastery.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Queen put to rest with Philip, her parents in Windsor chapel

**LONDON (AP)**—After the pomp and pageantry of a grand state funeral, Queen Elizabeth II was laid to rest with her husband and parents in an intimate ceremony in Windsor away from media cameras. King Charles III and senior royal family members gathered late Monday for the private interment ceremony at St. George's Chapel, a gothic church on the grounds of Windsor Castle that has hosted royal weddings, christenings and burials since the 15th century. Earlier Monday, 800 mourners, many of them the queen's staff, joined royal family members in the chapel for a committal service—the last public ceremony capping 10 days of national mourning that saw huge military parades, miles-long queues in London to see the queen's coffin lying in state, and Britain's first state funeral since former Prime Minister Winston Churchill died in 1965.

#### Storm damages space center in Japan, 130K still lack power

**TOKYO (AP)**—A tropical storm that dumped heavy rain as it cut across Japan moved into the Pacific Ocean on Tuesday after killing two and injuring more than 100, paralyzing traffic and leaving thousands of homes without power. New damage was reported in southern Japan, where Typhoon Nanmadol hit over the weekend before weakening as it moved north. On Tanegashima island, south of Kyushu island, a wall was damaged at a Japan Aerospace and Explo-



*Roberto Pacala*  
"Tatay"

**May 15, 1941 - September 18, 2022**

"If a man dies, can he live again?... You will call, and I will answer you. You will long for the work of your hands." -Job 14:14, 15

The friends and acquaintances of the  
**Pacala family** are respectfully invited  
to attend the funeral service of  
**Roberto Pacala.**

**Date:** Saturday, September 24, 2022

**Slideshow Presentation:** 10:30 AM

**Location:** Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses,  
Middle Road Gualo Rai, Kulales PI

**Funeral Discourse:** 11:00 AM



Rhoel Pacala (deceased)

Son: Josiah (JC)

Tess & Remy Badier

Daniel & Maiden Pacala

Kids: Matthew & Dannah

Anna Leah & Patrick Castillon

Kids: Shawn, TJ, Patricia, Brandon, Rachel, & Samuel

*Family:*

**Spouse:**

Angelina Pacala

**Children:**

Anna Lynn & Alwin Medina

Nathaniel & Malou Pacala

Kids: Ethan & Nicole

Obed Pacala

Jenny & Alex Mercado





# Good Housekeeping

By CATHY HOBBS  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Let's roll back the clock to the mid-1980s. During this time, the it color scheme in home decor was black and mauve. It was literally everywhere, featured in textiles, artwork, upholstery, you name it. While the color scheme may not be as wildly popular as it was in the '80s, it is still relevant.

Looking for ways to incorporate black and mauve into your home? Here are some top tips.

1. Find an inspirational piece and build a color palette around it. Artwork is a great springboard.
  2. Consider using either black or mauve as an accent wall color. Black accent walls can be dynamic in the right space.
  3. Use portable design elements to integrate black and mauve into a space such as toss pillows, throws and even books.
  4. Highlight black and mauve by pairing them with metallic elements. Don't be afraid to incorporate both silver and gold in the same space.
  5. Create a sense of balance by using similar portions of black and mauve in your space.
  6. Use neutral foundation pieces such as cream and gray, and then use black and mauve as your pops of color.
  7. Ground a space with a large dominant piece such as a bold piece of art that includes a black and mauve color scheme.
  8. Consider fixtures that incorporate black and a metal such as brass, then bring in mauve through accents and accessories.
  9. Incorporate black and mauve through textiles such as area rugs, drapery and even bedding.
  10. Create a dynamic sense of contrast through repeating elements of black and mauve in a space.

## MODERN MAUVE AND BLACK



## CNMI, STRONG!

OUR COMMUNITY, COMMITMENT, AND RESILIENCY MUST CONTINUE.



- C**ontrol the spread of COVID
- N**urture our bodies and minds
- M**aintain physical and mental fitness goals
- I**mprove our overall health!

One step, one mile, one minute at a time,  
for ourselves, our family, our neighbors, our home...





# Life & Style

## Queen Elizabeth II mourned by Britain and world at funeral

**LONDON (AP)**—The United Kingdom and the world bade farewell to Queen Elizabeth II on Monday with a state funeral that drew presidents and kings, princes and prime ministers—and crowds in the streets of London and at Windsor Castle—to honor a monarch whose 70-year reign defined an age.

In a country known for pomp and pageantry, the first state funeral since Winston Churchill's was filled with spectacle: Before the service, a bell tolled 96 times—once a minute for each year of Elizabeth's life. Then, 142 Royal Navy sailors used ropes to draw the gun carriage carrying her flag-draped coffin to Westminster Abbey, where pallbearers carried it inside and about 2,000 people ranging from world leaders to health care workers gathered to mourn.

The trappings of state and monarchy abounded: The coffin was draped with the Royal Standard and atop it was the Imperial State Crown, sparkling with almost 3,000 diamonds, and the sovereign's orb and scepter.

But the personal was also present: The coffin was followed into the church by generations of Elizabeth's descendants, including King Charles III, heir to the throne Prince William and 9-year-old George, who is second in line. On a wreath atop the coffin, a handwritten note read, "In loving and devoted memory," and was signed Charles R—for Rex, or king.

"Here, where Queen Elizabeth was married and crowned, we gather from across the na-



King Charles III, Camilla, the Queen Consort and members of the Royal family follow behind the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II, draped in the Royal Standard with the Imperial State Crown and the Sovereign's orb and sceptre, as it is carried out of Westminster Abbey after her State Funeral, in London, Monday Sept. 19, 2022.

tion, from the Commonwealth, and from the nations of the world, to mourn our loss, to remember her long life of selfless service, and in sure confidence to commit her to the mercy of God our maker and redeemer," the dean of the medieval abbey, David Hoyle, told the mourners.

The service ended with two minutes of silence observed across the United Kingdom, after which the attendees sang the national anthem, now titled "God Save the King."

The day began early when the doors of Parliament's 900-year-old Westminster Hall were closed to mourners after hundreds of thousands had

### SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

#### Rapper Mystikal pleads not guilty to rape, drug charges

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)**—The Grammy-nominated rapper Mystikal pleaded not guilty on Monday to charges accusing him of raping and choking a woman at his home in Louisiana and of possessing several drugs. The 51-year-old performer whose given name is Michael Tyler is innocent of all charges, attorney Joel Pearce said after the arraignment in Ascension Parish court in Gonzales, about 15 miles (24 kilometers) from Baton Rouge. The charges include

first-degree rape, which carries an automatic life sentence. Pearce said he has not been able to get copies of the two indictments, but they were read aloud in court. Charges also include simple criminal damage to property, false imprisonment, domestic abuse battery by strangulation, simple robbery, possession of heroin, marijuana, methamphetamine and Xanax, and possession of drug paraphernalia, he said.

#### Poet Marilyn Nelson wins \$100,000 lifetime achievement prize

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Mar-

ilyn Nelson has won the

\$100,000 Wallace Stevens Award, a lifetime achievement honor presented by the Academy of American Poets for "proven mastery in the art of poetry." "For decades Marilyn Nelson has written a poetry that is insightful, moving, and clear, brimming with history but aimed at the future," Academy chancellor and fellow poet Kevin Young said in a statement released Monday. "Whether writing of her father's generation of Tuskegee Airmen, in the

voices of the enslaved speaking of freedom, or about the woman in the mirror, Nelson's work is necessary and humane, and has led the way on the page and in the world." Nelson, 76, is known for such collections as "The Homeplace" and "Fields of Praise," while also writing children's books and translating works from the Danish and ancient Greek. John Ashbery, Adrienne Rich and Sonia Sanchez are among previous winners of the Stevens award.

the family. It is kind of moving," he said. Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said in his sermon at Westminster Abbey that "few leaders receive the outpouring of love we have seen" for the queen.

More people lined the route the hearse took from the capital to Windsor Castle, and many tossed flowers at the cortege as it passed. Millions more tuned into the funeral live, and crowds flocked to parks and public spaces across the U.K. to watch it on screens. Even the Google doodle turned a respectful black for the day.

As the coffin arrived at the castle, there were poignant reminders of her love of animals: A groom stood at the roadside with one of her ponies, Emma, and another member of staff held the leashes of two of her beloved corgis, Sandy and Muick.

## While wife was away, husband discovered women's clothing

**DEAR ABBY:** My wife has been away for a while caring for her ill parents. Because I was alone, I decided to experiment with wearing women's clothes and found that I really enjoyed wearing leggings. They make very comfortable pajamas. I also found that sports bras not only provide compression that feels good, but also serve a purpose because I have rather enlarged breasts. Should I hide everything and put away my leggings and bras, or should I let her in on some of my secrets?

### DRESSED UP IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR DRESSED UP:** I'm not sure what other "secrets" you have been hiding, but if they involve cross-dressing, you're not the only man who has discovered he enjoys wearing women's clothes. It may surprise you to know their wives help them do it. Your reasons for wanting to wear a sports bra and leggings seem practical. I see no reason to try to hide it from your wife.

■■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm a widow. I totaled my car four months ago and asked a friend, "Stan," for the type of help my husband would have provided. Stan was great and did so much. I felt bad that he refused my offer of money, so one day I took him out to lunch.

A few weeks later, he invited me to dinner and took me to my favorite steakhouse. He and his longtime girlfriend were parting ways because she was selling her home and moving to live

with her son. We started going out to eat once or twice a week.

Abby, after two months, he disappeared! I think I fell in love with him without even realizing it. Now he's gone every weekend, and I'm in so much pain. I am trying to set myself free. How could I fall in love so easily?

### WASN'T EXPECTING THAT

**DEAR WASN'T EXPECTING:** You were vulnerable, and Stan was there and seemed willing to step in and fill the void left by your husband's death. That's how you fell in love with someone who was, I assume, a longtime trusted friend.

Stan may have met someone, have other commitments or felt unready to make one with you. That he hasn't given you a reason for his disappearance is disappointing, but it happens. Please don't beat yourself up over this. You did nothing wrong. These disappointments are a part of life.

■■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I've been married to a verbally abusive woman for 49 years. To the outside world she seems perfect, but behind closed doors she's nasty. She overreacts angrily to the tiniest problem and jumps down my throat when I ask her the simplest question. She complains about my poor memory and hearing. I am 75 and in good shape except for a belly, which she often makes fun of. I have recommended couples therapy, but she refuses to go. Please help me.

### EXHAUSTED IN ARIZONA

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*



**DEAR EXHAUSTED:** Therapy would be a good idea. Because your wife refuses to go, it might benefit you to talk to a mental health professional. While it won't solve her problems, it could help you get to the bottom of yours. Chief among them would be figuring out the reason you have tolerated your wife's verbal abuse for nearly half a century, and deciding what, if anything, to do about it. Please don't wait.

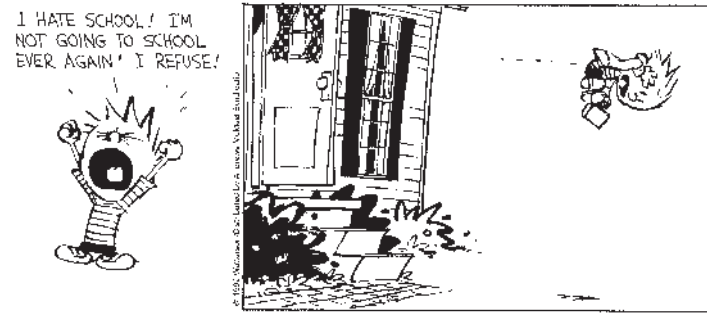
■■■■■

*Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



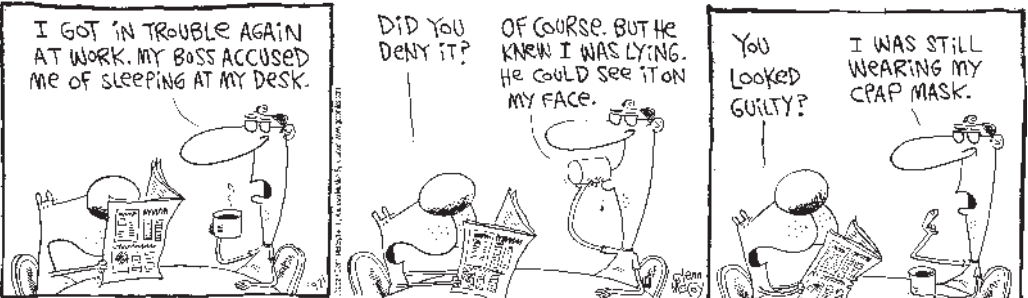
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Antiquing aid

5 McCourt memoir

8 Alphabet quartet

12 Houston org.

13 "I love," to Ovid

14 Chaste

15 Floor cleaners

17 "Got it"

18 Plum relatives

19 Raw bar mollusk

21 Numbered rds.

24 "Eureka!"

25 River blockers

28 Rich soil

30 Prattle

33 Debtor's note

34 Elegance

35 Swiss canton

36 Golfer Ernie

37 Plucked instrument

38 Slightly

39 Brewed drink

41 Bygone jets

43 Jerry of the Grateful Dead

46 Part of 42-

50 Sweet sandwich

51 Nike slogan

54 Use a rotary phone

55 Santa — winds

56 Part of Q.E.D.

57 "Maureen" singer

58 Abolish

59 Missile shelter

2 Old France

3 Canadian gas brand

4 Critics, often

5 Eastern path

6 Little rascal

7 Mediocre

8 Gorilla-like

9 Work very hard

10 Manitoba tribe

11 Woodland grazer

16 Rockies hrs.

20 Candied veggies

22 First lady of scat

23 Flies high

25 Conk out

26 MSN rival

27 Highly-recommended book

29 Nile vipers

31 Football's Par-seghian

32 eBay offer

34 Spiced 39-

38 Stage comments

40 Paris school

42 Stick with a kick

43 Pantheon members

44 Met melody

45 Slightly open

47 Actress Spelling

48 Iranian money

49 "Beetle Bailey" dog

52 Numerical prefix

53 Melancholy

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesturday's answer 9-21

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alfonso Ribeiro, 51; Nancy Travis, 61; Bill Murray, 72; Stephen King, 75.

Happy Birthday: Expand your mind and incorporate your skills into something you enjoy doing. Take the initiative to explore the possibilities, learn all you can from experts and sign up for courses that will encourage you to broaden your skills. Use your imagination to build a future that gives you the freedom to achieve your dreams. Your numbers are 6, 11, 20, 28, 31, 36, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Retreat and rethink. If you act in haste, you'll make a mistake. Take your time and get things right the first time. You'll become a valuable commodity if you are patient and direct from the beginning.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Absorb whatever information you can, then use it to your advantage. Put your time and effort where they will bring the highest return. Don't limit what you can do because someone wants to use your skills or services to their advantage.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Listen to suggestions, but don't concur with something that doesn't meet your expectations. Channel your energy into perfecting what you want to do and executing your plans with finesse. Don't get involved in anything that jeopardizes your physical well-being.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Simplify your life and relationships. Conduct your affairs to suit your needs. Discard what's no longer valid or of use to you. Set new stand-

ards and goals, and research how best to get what you want. Personal gain is favored.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look for answers and you'll discover something that helps you change how you use your skills. Your personal adjustments will make a difference in how others treat you. Kindness and compassion will encourage others to see things your way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Refuse to be a follower. Consider what others expect of you and whether it's worth your time to continue down this path or to switch to something that makes you excited. Plan your future with someone who shares your long-term goals.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Share your feelings; the response will help you decide your next move. Set your sights on learning something new or taking your skills to the next level. A positive lifestyle change is apparent.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be a good listener. A sensitive approach to life, love and dealing with others will pay off. A little help will go a long way and encourage others to pitch in and help. Set a good example, and you'll gain respect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Share information with someone traveling down a similar path. A positive change in how you do your job or take care of responsibilities will raise your profile and give you more clout when dealing with your peers. Trust your instincts.

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Focus on presentation and money management. A domestic change that lowers your overhead and gives you the freedom to do things you enjoy is apparent and will confirm something you instinctively knew about yourself. Make an honest assessment and a positive change.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Neglecting duties or falling behind will limit your freedom to do things you enjoy. Get your responsibilities out of the way, and you'll get the opportunity to make a positive lifestyle change that will improve your living space and relationships with others.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take the initiative. Learn or travel about in preparation for something you want to instill into your everyday routine. Maintaining honesty and integrity will make your life stress-free and encourage you to distance yourself from those who don't share your values.

Birthdays: You are original, playful and outspoken. You are determined and hands-on.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesturday Answer

9 5 4 7 2 6 1 8 3

3 7 1 8 4 9 2 6 5

6 2 8 3 5 1 9 4 7

8 1 5 4 3 7 6 9 2

4 3 2 6 9 8 5 7 1

7 6 9 5 1 2 8 3 4

2 8 3 9 7 5 4 1 6

1 9 7 2 6 4 3 5 8

5 4 6 1 8 3 7 2 9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/21 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN (1948-2022) Solution: 5 letters

S R U M O U R O L E Y S N F U

L U O S D E T O V E D T A N D

Y O M F A R D O L L S L I S A

L F R M A I L N O I L T L N N

S L N E E T I G W I E C A I A

S O H R D R E T N D D A R H X

E S E O B N N G K E T S P Y

L S G O C T H E I P O M E S L S

E I D S O T N T G L L R U O M

P K I J T G A L R H E I A D U

O E R E D N E M E C T A V W B

H N B O O E S T A G E S S I L

I E M R L A C I S Y H P O E A

T R A V O L T A E E D N O L B

S I C I G A M F L A M I N G O

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# Eagles QB Hurts dominant in 24-7 win over Vikings



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—

Jalen Hurts rolled to his right, scampered down the sideline and stutter-stepped to the 5-yard-line, where he was wrapped up by a defender with another in pursuit. Hurts twisted his body, lowered his head, dragged two defenders with him and powered his way in for an adrenaline-filled 26-yard touchdown run that about broke the game open.

Just maybe, or so the Eagles can hope, there are many more plays like that one ahead.

Hurts had 301 total yards in the first half in the breakout game of his young career, finishing with three total touchdowns as he led Philadelphia to a 24-7 win over the Minnesota Vikings on Monday night.

“Big-time performance on a big-time stage,” Eagles coach Nick Sirianni said.

Trying to prove he can play like the best franchise QBs in the NFL, Hurts looked downright unstoppable from the opening drive.

Hurts hit five receivers on 5-for-5 passing — highlighted by a 19-yard strike to A.J. Brown — and finished the drive himself with a 3-yard scoring run. In the opening win against Detroit, Hurts failed to complete a pass on five attempts and the Eagles turned the ball over on downs on the first drive of the game.

Turn the ball over on downs? That seemed like just a rumor against the Vikings. The



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts (1) runs up field during the first half of an NFL football game against the Minnesota Vikings, Monday, Sept. 19, 2022, in Philadelphia. AP

TD was just the liftoff for the 24-year-old Hurts throwing, running, imposing his will with all his available tools against a Vikings defense that could not solve him in his 21st career start. He finished with 333 yards passing and a touchdown, and 57 yards and two scores on the ground.

“Another outstanding per-

formance. He threw some unbelievable balls. He made a lot of plays,” Eagles center Jason Kelce said. “This was a really great, well-rounded game for him.”

On the first play of the second quarter, Hurts connected with a wide-open Quez Watkins for a 53-yard TD and the 14-0 lead.

“It always comes with time and as time goes on, you find more comfort with what you’re doing,” Hurts said.

Darius Slay, who had two interceptions against a hapless Kirk Cousins, had called each of the Eagles’ trio of talented receivers Batman.

There was, Brown, the “swole” Batman who had five

catches for 69 yards; DeVonta Smith was the “skinny” Batman who had seven for 80 yards; and Watkins was the “fast” Batman who had the burners on for the easy score (and 69 total yards receiving).

Why are they all Batman?

“No Robins. We’ve got no sidekicks,” Slay said.

Hurts dazzled with the 26-

yard TD with 1:58 left in the half and Jake Elliott still had time to kick a 38-yarder and the Eagles took a 24-7 lead into halftime.

“I don’t think it matters how we score as long as we’re putting points on the board,” Hurts said.

In a Week 2 full of improbable comebacks, perhaps it wasn’t wise to count out the Vikings.

But Cousins and wide receiver Justin Jefferson — famously passed over by the Eagles in the 2020 draft — never got anything going of substance against the Eagles and maligned defensive coordinator Jonathan Gannon. Slay had his second interception of the game in the fourth quarter as the scoreboard soon flashed “Big Play Slay.”

“It felt at times, me included, like we pressed a little bit,” Vikings coach Kevin O’Connell said.

Hurts had 50 yards rushing and 251 yards passing in the first half. Cousins finished the game 27 for 46 for 221 yards and three interceptions. His lone TD was on a 2-yard pass to Irv Smith in the second quarter. Jefferson had six catches for 48 yards a week after he had 184 receiving yards and two TDs in a win against Green Bay.

“I take no matchup lightly, but he is one of the best in the world. I am one of the best in the world, too. I was looking forward to the matchup,” Slay said of Jefferson.

Bryce Harper (wearing an Eagles hat), James Harden (who was handed the ball by Slay after his first interception) and Bradley Cooper (wearing an Allen Iverson T-shirt) were among the jam-packed and fight-song singing crowd at the Eagles’ home opener.

Harden was pumped with his souvenir, posting an Instagram photo of his left hand holding the ball with the caption “Gimme That!” The Philadelphia 76ers star snapped selfies with fans before he left late in the game.

Harden waited in the tunnel for Slay to autograph the football. Harden good-naturedly told Slay he should have had even more interceptions.

“He was shocked that I gave it to him,” said Slay, who noted he kept the ball from the second pick.

Dick Vermeil received his Hall of Fame ring at halftime. In his third season in Philadelphia, the coaching great led the Eagles to their first playoff appearance in 18 years. He guided the Eagles to their first Super Bowl appearance in the 1980 season only to lose to the Oakland Raiders, 27-10.

## Diggs scores 3 TDs for Bills in 41-7 rout of Titans

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—If the Buffalo Bills are making some sort of loud statement by opening their season with consecutive routs, quarterback Josh Allen isn’t about to raise his voice.

As he did following a 31-10 win over the defending Super Bowl champion Los Angeles Rams, Allen dismissed questions about the message the Bills sent by throttling the Tennessee Titans 41-7 in Buffalo’s home opener on Monday night.

“When we execute how we know we’re supposed to execute, success typically leads to success,” Allen said. “We’re just trying to be the best version of ourselves.”

It made no difference to Allen whether the Bills earned some vindication against an opponent that had defeated them in each of the past two seasons.

“It doesn’t matter who it’s against. Like, that’s a good team that we played,” he said. “For us to go do that was great.”

Allen threw four touch-

down passes, including three to Stefon Diggs, and the Bills’ defense did the rest, containing Derrick Henry and the Titans. Buffalo forced four turnovers, including linebacker Matt Milano returning the second of Ryan Tannehill’s two interceptions 43 yards for a touchdown.

Buffalo never trailed and blew the game open by outscoring the Titans 24-0 in the third quarter. The surge began in the final minute of the second quarter when Buffalo went ahead 17-7 on Allen’s 4-yard touchdown pass to Diggs.

Allen topped 300 yards passing for the 15th time of his career, completing 26 of 38 attempts for 317 yards, and sat out the entire fourth quarter. Diggs had 12 catches for 148 yards. He has exceeded 100 yards in each of his first two games, a feat accomplished previously for the Bills only by Hall of Famer Andre Reed.

“It was a lot left on the bone, really,” Diggs said

with a shrug. “We had a lot of points. I think we had one punt and I think it came back to us. But just doing your job, and at this point we’re doing OK I guess.”

The Titans, coming off a 21-20 season-opening loss to the New York Giants, opened 0-2 for the first time since 2012.

The two-time defending AFC South champions face numerous questions about a defense that gave up 313 yards passing a week after allowing 238 yards rushing. Meantime, their offense mustered 187 yards, managed 12 first downs and had two of 11 drives finish in Bills territory.

“We got our (butts) kicked, plain and simple,” coach Mike Vrabel said after the most lopsided loss in his four-plus seasons coaching the Titans. “They outplayed us and they outcoached us, and that’s the definition of it. We’re going to go back to work and try to figure out how to win a football game.”

While Tannehill was

benched after throwing his second interception, the Titans’ Henry-led running game continued to be grounded.

The two-time rushing champion was limited to 25 yards on 13 carries while scoring on a 2-yard plunge.

“I pride myself on making plays and being a playmaker for this team. And I didn’t do that tonight,” Henry said. “They were the better team tonight in all three phases, the whole game. We just weren’t good enough. At all.”

Injuries affected both teams, the most serious involving Bills cornerback Dane Jackson, who hurt his neck in a troubling collision with a teammate and was taken to a hospital for evaluation. The Bills said Jackson had full movement in his limbs.

Coach Sean McDermott said Jackson was still awaiting test results. The entire Bills team gathered around Jackson as he was loaded into an ambulance on the field.

“You go from being a

coach to just a human. That’s a real moment,” McDermott said. “Just praying for him. It’s an unfortunate situation.”

Tannehill finished 11 of 20 for 117 yards and was benched following Milano’s interception with 3:49 left in the third quarter. Rookie Malik Willis took over, and if Tannehill continues to struggle, Tennessee fans will want to see more of the young backup.

Vrabel stressed he benched many of his starters to protect them from getting hurt.

Bills Hall of Fame defensive end Bruce Smith asked fans for a moment of silence before the game to honor the memory of 10 people killed in shooting spree at a Buffalo supermarket in May.

“We stand united with the victims and the victims’ families,” Smith said.

“No one can erase their pain and suffering. But Buffalo, your acts of love and kindness will never be forgotten,” he added. “The national media, the national activists have all gone. But we are here right now. It is up to us to love these families. To be with them.”



# Astros clinch AL West for 5th time in 6 years, beat Rays 4-0



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.

(AP)—The Houston Astros clinched their fifth AL West title in six years, getting a leadoff home run from Jose Altuve in a 4-0 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays on Monday night.

"It's been a great start to the season," third baseman Alex Bregman said. "This is a first step in the right direction for this ballclub. We've just got to stay focused and know what a tough task is ahead of us."

Headed to the postseason for the sixth straight season, Houston won for the eighth time in nine games and improved the AL's best record to 97-51.

"This is the start of it," manager Dusty Baker said. "You've got to get to this point first, and then you get to the next point and the next point and the next point. You've just got to appreciate where we are right now, and get back to work tomorrow."

Houston has led by the division by nine games or more since June 15.

"Even though we expected to be here, it's never something I take for granted," pitcher Justin Verlander said. "I've been a part of a lot of teams that made the playoffs, but I've played with guys who played 10 years and never experienced this. All those things kind of run through your head in these situations."

Luis Garcia (13-8) won his fifth straight decision, giving up two hits and four walks in five innings while striking out four. Hunter Brown pitched three innings and Héctor Neris finished the five-hitter, the Astros 16th shutout this season.

"It was a fun ride and we've got to enjoy it," said catcher Christian Vázquez, who was acquired on Aug. 1. "This is the first step and if we continue to do our thing, we're going to be fine."

Tampa Bay (82-65) is in position for the second of three AL wild card berths, one game behind Toronto (83-64) and a half-game ahead of Seattle (81-65).

After the three-game series that ends Wednesday, the Rays host the Blue Jays in a four-game series.

José Ramírez had three of the Rays' five hits.

Drew Rasmussen (10-6) gave up four runs and six hits in six innings. He has allowed four runs in consecutive starts and giving up three runs or fewer during 11 in a row.

"I thought I did a better job of executing pitches today, but their refusal to strike



Houston Astros players celebrate in the clubhouse after clinching the American League West title with a win over the Tampa Bay Rays during a baseball game Monday, Sept. 19, 2022, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

out came up big for them," Rasmussen said.

Altuve hit his 25th homer on the fifth pitch of the game, his 11th leadoff homer this season and 32nd of his career.

Altuve singled leading off the sixth, Jeremy Peña walked and Yordan Alvarez hit an RBI single. Bregman

followed with a broken-bat, two-run double.

## Dodgers 5, Diamondbacks 2

In Los Angeles, Chris Taylor has struggled mightily this season, his feel at the plate varying day to day.

Even a three-run blast

didn't come easy in the Los Angeles Dodgers' 5-2 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Monday night.

Taylor struck out 149 times in 365 at-bats coming into the game, with just 24% of his swings being put into play. He flied out in the second before connecting

for his 10th homer off Merrill Kelly (12-7) in a four-run fourth. However, he had to wait for it.

## Giants 10, Rockies 7

In Denver, Thairo Estrada hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the 10th inning after igniting a tying rally in the ninth, and the San Francisco Giants came back to beat the Colorado Rockies 10-7 on Monday night.

Mike Yastrzemski homered and Wilmer Flores had three hits and two RBIs for the Giants, who snapped a three-game losing streak and overcame four errors that led to two unearned runs. "I think it's huge," Yastrzemski said. "It shows that we still care about what's going on here, all of our individual efforts and our team effort. I think it's important to have these moments, especially leading into next year to kind of build confidence. It's nice to see guys still really caring."

## Mets 7, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, New York starting pitcher Max Scherzer returned from the injured list by retiring all 18 batters he faced, striking out nine, before being lifted in the Mets' win in Milwaukee.

## Braves 5, Nationals 2

In Atlanta, Kyle Wright earned his major-league-leading 19th win, Austin Riley and Eddie Rosario homered and host Atlanta beat Washington. The defending World Series champions won their ninth straight home game.

## Mariners 9, Angels 1

In Los Angeles, Carlos Santana homered twice, including his first grand slam in three years, Ty France drove in four runs and visiting Seattle stopped a three-game losing streak.

## Guardians 11, Twins 4

In Cleveland, Josh Naylor and Amed Rosario hit three-run homers, Cal Quantrill kept his home unbeaten streak intact and Cleveland thumped Minnesota, taking four of five in the series from an AL Central pursuer.

## Orioles 11, Tigers 0

In Baltimore, Tyler Alexander held Baltimore hitless until the seventh inning, Riley Greene drove in three runs and visiting Detroit stalled the Orioles' playoff push.

## Marlins 10, Cubs 3

In Miami, Bryan De La Cruz hit a grand slam in the third inning and host Miami beat Chicago.

# Spain wins EuroBasket title, topping France 88-76 for gold



BERLIN (AP) — For Spain, almost all

of the names on the national team's roster have changed in recent years.

The expectations didn't. And neither did the results.

Juancho Hernangomez of the Toronto Raptors scored 27 points, his brother Willy Hernangomez added 14 and won tournament MVP honors, and Spain topped France 88-76 on Sunday to win the EuroBasket gold medal.

It was Spain's fourth European championship in its last six tries, all those golds coming under coach Sergio Scariolo.

"It's easy to say that we are extremely happy," Scariolo said. "We got into this championship in eighth place in the power ranking and we managed to climb, step by step. ... It's been amazing now to see we are above all those great teams."

Lorenzo Brown scored 14 points and had 11 assists for Spain, while Jaime Fernandez scored 13.

Evan Fournier led France — which also dropped the gold-medal game at the Tokyo Olympics to the U.S. last

summer — with 23 points, with Thomas Heurtel scored 16 and Guerschon Yabusele added 13.

Rudy Gobert of the Minnesota Timberwolves was held to only six points on just two shots from the field for France.

"Spain played better from start to finish," said Fournier, who plays with the New York Knicks. "They had a clear game plan and we did not execute ours well enough. ... We never really had control of the game. They just played better, man, period."

This was supposed to be a rebuilding summer for Spain. Pau and Marc Gasol, the longtime leaders of the program, retired from international following a quarterfinal loss to the U.S. at the Tokyo Games. Sergio Gonzalez also decided last summer was the right time to walk away, after 16 years with the national team. Sergio Llull and Ricky Rubio, two more of veterans, couldn't play because of injuries.

The winning tradition simply continued anyway. Spain is now the reigning Basketball World Cup (won in China in 2019) along with

EuroBasket champion. It has also medaled in 10 of its last 11 EuroBasket appearances.

"It's hard to explain with words how I feel," said Willy Hernangomez, who plays in the NBA for New Orleans. "I'm feeling extremely proud of my teammates, of my coaching staff, of all the Spanish federation from the top to the bottom. We much deserve this gold medal."

But this young team also had the exuberance of youth: As Scariolo and Willy Hernangomez were trying to hold a postgame news conference, the rest of Spain's roster crashed the session, armed with water bottles, and soaked the MVP and their coach.

"That's the dark side of having a young team," Scariolo said, as he happily dabbed at his face with a towel. "I don't see Pau Gasol throwing water around."

For France, it was another medal — and another instance of coming up a bit short of the shiniest medal. France's last major crown came in winning EuroBasket in 2013. Since then, the French have won two bronzes at the World Cup (2014, 2019), a bronze at EuroBasket (2015), silver

at the Tokyo Olympics, and now, silver again.

The difference was clear: Spain held a massive 35-7 edge in points off turnovers.

"Today, obviously, we have lost the gold," France coach Vincent Collet said. "They executed their plan perfect."

Juancho Hernangomez was 6-for-6 from 3-point range in a 6-minute span of the second quarter, helping Spain extend what was a 23-14 lead into a 45-26 edge with just about 3 minutes left in the half.

It was perhaps a mildly unlikely source for a 3-point barrage. He had made a total of 12 3's in his eight previous games in this year's EuroBasket tournament, and his high in any NBA game is six.

"We needed him today and he was there for us," Willy Hernangomez said.

An 11-0 run helped France cut what had been a 21-point deficit to just 47-37 at the half — and the momentum carried into the third quarter.

Yabusele's jumper with 6:52 left in the third got France within 49-46, and everything seemed to be shifting.

But Spain held on. Juancho Hernangomez's seventh 3-pointer with 7:29 left made

it a 71-61 game, and the outcome wasn't in doubt again.

"I cannot be happier as a basketball coach," Scariolo said.

## BRONZE MEDAL Germany 82, Poland 69

In the bronze-medal matchup earlier Sunday, Dennis Schroder of the Los Angeles Lakers scored 26 points and host Germany held off Poland.

It was Germany's first EuroBasket medal since winning silver in 2005. Poland matched its best finish in the event since 1971.

"They told me it's 17 years since Germany won a medal," Germany coach Gordie Herbert said. "It's kind of fitting that Dennis Schroder's number is 17. It's been an unbelievable honor to coach these guys from Day 1."

Johannes Voigtman scored 14 for Germany.

"We worked hard for it," Schroder said. "It's an unbelievable feeling to come out third in the EuroBasket."

Michal Sokolowski led Poland with 18 points, with Jakub Garbacz scoring 12 and A.J. Slaughter finishing with 10 points and 10 assists.



By **LEIGH GASES**  
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CORRESPONDENT



Francisco  
M. Sablan  
Middle  
School

made mincemeat of Hopwood Middle School 2, 13-1, on Day 2 of the 2022-2023 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League last Tuesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Within the first eight minutes of the game, De'Anthony Aldan of FMS scored three goals, carrying the team to a 3-0 lead. By the time Hopwood 2 found the back of the net in the 28th minute, FMS already scored 10 goals.

In total, Aldan scored the majority of the goals, with seven. Daniel Sano contributed two goals, Jairoh Guilas scored three goals, and Jerz Navarro scored one.

After that game, Saipan Community School won over forfeit against Seventh Day Adventist School, 3-0.

So far in the standings, FMS in Group A leads with a record

# FMS beats Hopwood 2 in MS soccer opener



A Francisco M. Sablan Middle School soccer player in blue goes up against a Hopwood Middle School player last Tuesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville in the middle school NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer opener.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

of 1-0. Hopwood 2 of Group B is at 0-1.

The only Group A school that has yet to play is Tanapag

Middle School 1.

Group B schools that have yet to play are Saipan International School, TMS 2, Hopwood 1,

and Mount Carmel School.

**KES3, WSR 1**

The elementary school games

started off the first day of the 2022-2023 PSS interscholastic soccer league last Monday, with Koblerville Elementary School winning over William S. Reyes, 3-1.

Napu Pangelinan carried the team to victory with his three goals, one after the other, in the first 11 minutes of the game. The only score from WSR was made by Landin Reyes.

**GCA 8, MCS-1, 0**

Grace Christian Academy, meanwhile, scored goals aplenty while keeping Mount Carmel School scoreless, 8-0.

Sarang Lee scored half of the team's goals, while Princess Sariol and Pedro Taitano scored two each.

After that game, Garapan Elementary School came out on top against Mount Carmel School 2, winning the match 6-3.

**SVES-1 5, SIS-1 1**

San Vicente Elementary School outplayed SIS, 5-1,

with Jude Rayphand scoring three out of the five goals.

Dominic Canete-Ealy scored two goals for the team.

The only goal for SIS was made by Cooper Koenig.

**GTC-1 7, OES 3**

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School came out in a rush to score and win over Oleai Elementary School, 7-3.

Brandon Teigita scored the first four goals and Javin Deleon Guerrero took over and scored the last three.

**GES-1 16, SCS 0**

In the last game of the day, Garapan Elementary School blew Saipan Community School out of the water, 16-0.

Almost the whole roster contributed a goal, but Kanoa Owens scored the most with five goals.

The results and standings of the elementary school's second game day will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

## AGAPE

From Page 20

19 points of ACS nipping the 20 points of SIS. Kaithlyn Chavez of SIS came in first with a time of 22:49.52, Tiana Cabrera of SIS came in second with a time of 23:46.73, while three ACS girls—Eunice Xu 23:48.86, Emma Pang (26:04.72), and Mary Zhu (26:38.49)—came in third, fourth, and in fifth place.

In the middle school boys division, ACS came in first with 24 points, SIS second at 42 points, and Dandan Middle School at third with 51 points. Michael Miller of GCA came in first with a time of 10:47.98, Raffy Cai of ACS came in second with a time of 11:21.37, and Landen Taflinger of DMS

came in third with a time of 11:36.40.

The ACS middle school girls had a score of 20 points, SIS had 40 points, and SCS had 57 points. Addalee Taflinger came in first for DMS with a time of 12:18.25, Barbara Wang of ACS came in second with a time of 13:22.52, and Sofia Dimafelix of Mount Carmel School came in third with a time of 14:30.18.

In the elementary school divisions, SIS topped both the girls and boys events. In the girls division, SIS had 16 points, Oleai Elementary School had 26 points, and ACS had 65 points. In the boys division, SIS had 13 points, Brilliant Star School had 51 points, and ACS had 59 points.

ACS administrator Kok H.

Pang told *Saipan Tribune* that for the upcoming championships in October, "most of our runners are excited and looking forward to the challenge. Some students are starting to feel the pressure and some just do not know what to expect. Our expectation is for them to do their very best and give 100%. As long as they give their best, improve on their PB (personal best) and learn precious lessons of [hard work], we would be happy."

After the cross-country meet, Nick Brennfleck, cross country coach of Kagman High School boys and girls team and race director for the second qualifier, said the "turnout of the event was good" and that the "weather kind of kept some people away but overall was a good

turnout for our first meet here out in Kagman."

"The entire community of Kagman has been awesome. When we said we were doing a race, we had community members, all of the principals from all three schools were so supportive of it. They came out and there's a lot of clearing that needed to be done and they... really wanted to make

sure that our kids had a chance to compete," he said.

A total of 187 runners registered for the event.

The course for the high school cross country wrapped around ChaCha Middle School, Kagman Elementary School, up to Forbidden Island Lookout, and back to the elementary school. The middle school course wrapped around

the elementary and middle school campuses twice, while the elementary school course wrapped around once.

The third qualifier will be held at the American Memorial Park this Saturday, Sept. 24, starting at 6am. Northern Marianas Athletics is coordinating the event along with the Public School System Athletics Program.

## FMS

From Page 20

to its season-opening triumph after scoring all 14 points of the team. Saralu prevailed in her one-on-one showdown with Agape's Barbara Wang, who led the Torchbearers with 8 markers. The Napu Riders' top player then picked up where she left off, firing 15 of FMS' total points in their win over GCA last weekend. Kyomi Taisacan made the 2 other points for FMS, while Ella Hall and Ayana Fatialofa registered 4 markers apiece for GCA, which prevailed in its opener against Hopwood Middle School 2, 29-5, before bowing to Saralu and company.

Meanwhile, Tanapag is also off to a good start this season after a so-so performance last

year. The Tataga hammered Chacha Oceanview, 17-0, and pulled off a 20-18 overtime win against last season's third placer Dandan Middle School.

Kayshlie Aguon anchored Tanapag's lopsided victory over Chacha after firing 12 points. Aguon then made only 6 markers in their second game, but delivered 4 of them in the extra period, allowing Tapanag to escape with the win. The Tanapag-Dandan game was tied at 16-all before Aguon came into the Tataga's rescue and hit clutch baskets in the deciding period. Shaenna Yamada scored the lone basket for Dandan in overtime and finished the match with a game-high 16 points.

In other results in Week 1, Hopwood-1 won its first game of the season after whipping Hopwood-2, 24-4,

while Dandan was also able to break into the win column following a 4-2 triumph over Saipan International School. Chelsea Sonoda had 12 points in Hopwood-1's easy win over Hopwood-2, which dropped its pair of games in the opening week.

Agape also had twin matches in Week 1 and had a split, as it downed SIS last Friday, 18-3. Lucy Hong registered 7 markers for Agape, while Wang chipped in 5.

Week 2 games will start today with the following pairings: Agape vs Hopwood-1; Chacha vs FMS; Dandan vs Hopwood-2; and Tanapag vs SIS.

Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Association is conducting the league in coordination with the Public School System Athletic Program.

## SUFA

From Page 20

no hope of redemption by the Redmen.

The Redmen's first innings were silent, followed only by two runs in the next couple of innings.

Their last-ditch effort to put runs up on the scoreboard came long overdue in the fifth inning as they managed to scrape up eight runs, but it was to no avail as Sufa was way ahead of them at this point, 18-10.

Juan Reyes and John Taitano of the Redmen managed to hit two home runs against Sufa pitcher Tom Camacho.

In the last couple of innings, Sufa kept the runs coming in, putting up six more runs to the Redmen's lone one, to win the game 24-11.

**Tokahao 20, Asahi 14**

In the second game of the day, Tokahao beat Asahi, 20-14, to raise Tokahao's record to 7-3, while Asahi dropped to 5-5.

Asahi blew an early lead after putting up six runs in the first inning and not coming up with anything in the second inning. This gave a chance to Tokahao to catch up and score seven runs to make it 7-6.

Asahi managed to put up five more runs in the fourth inning, but nothing in the next couple of innings. That's when Tokahao rallied in the last inning of the game, putting up eight runs—with two home runs courtesy of Alvin Takai and Mark Villagomez.

George David was credited with six RBIs, Manny Villagomez with four, Dave Attao and Alvin Takai with two, and Jeff Cruz, Robert Bansil, Eric David, and Mark Villagomez with one each.

**Momma Charo 20, Aimeliik 9**

Momma Charo defeated Aimeliik, 20-9, to raise its record to 4-6, while dropping its victims to 2-8.

Despite a quiet first couple of innings, Momma Charo managed to blow Aimeliik out of the field, spreading out their runs over the course of the next four innings.

Charo's J.J. Laniyo and Oscar Sablan hit a home run each in the third inning to put them up 7-3.

Aimeliik's Taylor Germance and Chuezon Martin had a home run each as well, but the rest of the offense could not deliver against Momma Charo pitcher Leo Bobai.

**Man Amigos 19, Hagu La'mun 3**

The top team of the league showed why they're the team to beat as Man Amigos shut down Hagu La'mun, 19-3, in a run-ruled contest.

From the starting pitch, Man Amigos' James Fleming, Jess Tenorio, and Eric Palacios scored a run each, followed by two home runs from Joey Dela Cruz and Mario Aguon to put them up 5-0.

Hagu La'mun was shut down in the next innings, only rummaging up three runs, while Man Amigos put up 12 in the third and final inning.

This put Man Amigos higher up in the leaderboard, 9-1 and Hagu La'mun at 6-4.

**Peleliu 25, Salty Boys 24**

Cellardweller Salty Boys put up a valiant fight against Peleliu, coming just a run short to lose, 25-24.

Salty Boys almost grasped their first win of the season but fell short as they were silenced in four innings and their rally in the last inning came too late.

Despite it being a high-scoring game, Mike Techur of the Salty Boys put up the only two home runs for the team. Peleliu had none.





Eagles QB Hurts  
dominant in 24-7  
win over Vikings

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

FMS beats  
Hopwood 2 in MS  
soccer opener

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20 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## HIGH, MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISIONS

# Agape continues cross country streak

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Agape Christian School's boys and girls high school teams pose after the second NMA-PSS All Schools Cross Country qualifier at the Kagman Elementary School campus last Saturday.



By LEIGH GASES  
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CORRESPONDENT

Kagman Elementary School was spared by heavy downpour long enough last Saturday for Agape Christian School to dominate the high school and middle school divisions of the second 2022-2023 NMA-PSS All Schools Cross Country qualifier.



The Torchbearers' high school boys cross country team dominated the field, with the speedy Samuel Zhu clocking in first with 19:37.45. He was followed by Marianas High School's Pony Tang at 19:40.48 with ACS' Jireh Wang completing

» **SIS wins elementary division**

the Top 3 in 21:17.94.

The Torchbearer boys collected 15 points, MHS garnered 32 points, Saipan International School received 63 points, Grace Christian Academy had 71 points, and Kagman High School came in last with 90 points.

The girls high school division was a close one with the

See AGAPE on Page 19

## Sufa edges No. 3 Redmen



LEIGH GASES

Francisco Sablan of Sufa swings at a pitch from a Ngaraard Redmen pitcher in the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

By LEIGH GASES  
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CORRESPONDENT

Sufa bested third-ranked Ngaraard Redmen, 24-11, in the men's division of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association



League as the weather held up on a cloudy and rainy Sunday at the Dandan Softball field.

With this win, Sufa went up 6-4 and tied the Redmen in the standings.

Sufa showed the opposi-

tion that they deserve to remain in the winner's bracket from the get-go, as their first three hard-hitting batters scored a run each and put up eight more runs in the second inning.

Batting leader Audie Maratita showed everyone why he was at the top as he went 3-for-5 at the plate, with one big home run, and three RBIs.

A total of three home runs were shot by Sufa, with

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## FMS, Tanapag take early lead in MS hoops

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Francisco M. Sablan Middle School and Tanapag Middle School gained the early lead in the team standings after going undefeated in the opening week of the girls middle school division of the IT&E Interscholastic Basketball League.

FMS, which fell short in its title bid last season after losing to Grace Christian Academy in the finals, debuted in this year's competition with a 14-

10 victory over Agape Christian School last Sept. 14 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. The Napu Riders then returned to the MHS Gymnasium last Friday and made it two in a row following a 17-9 win in their early rematch against the GCA Lady Eagles.

Rosie Saralu powered FMS

See FMS on Page 19

ROSELYN MONROYO

A Francisco M. Sablan Middle School player, right, takes a shot against an Agape Christian School defender during their game in the IT&E Interscholastic Basketball League last Sept. 14 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

